Dr.STONE
21
STORY BY RIICHIRO INAGAKI
ART BY BOICHI

Dr.STONE



STORY **RIICHIRO INAGAKI**
ART **BOICHI**

21

STONE SANCTUARY

Dr.STONE

STORY

Every human on earth is turned to stone by a mysterious phenomenon, including high school student Taiju. Nearly 3,700 years later, Taiju awakens and finds his friend Senku, who revived a bit earlier. Together, they vow to restore civilization, but Tsukasa, once considered the strongest high schooler alive, nearly kills Senku in order to put a stop to his scientific plans.

After being secretly revived by his friends, Senku arrives at Ishigami Village. But when word of Senku's survival gets back to Tsukasa, the war between the two forces begins! Eventually, the two factions make peace. After acquiring a petrification device on Treasure Island, Senku heads for the U.S.A. to find corn, and encounters another science kingdom!

With Dr. Xeno's help, Senku pinpoints the petri-beam's origin. New crew member Dr. Chelsea leads the gang to a source of rubber, allowing them to escape from Stanley's vicious pursuit across South America via motorcycles! Meanwhile, up in Corn City, U.S.A., Joel has successfully jumpstarted the Medusa mechanism!



CHARACTERS



KOHAKU: An experienced, agile warrior who's as strong as any man. She's quite possibly the strongest person in the village.

CHROME: A clever and honest guy with more curiosity than he knows what to do with. Now that Senku's opened his eyes to science, he's ready to go as far as that path takes him.

SENKU: A young man with prodigious knowledge and a passion for science. He's now leading his Kingdom of Science. His catchphrase is "Get excited!"

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STONE SANCTUARY

Z=179: Bonds on the High Wire




BOING
TOTALLY UTS-NAY!!
HAH! DON'T GO FORGETTING HOW...
...EVERY DAY FOR YEARS...
...I HAULED HOT-SPRING WATER FOR RURI ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS BACK HOME!
I COULD MAKE THIS ENTIRE CLIMB WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE.
BUT SADLY, I CAN'T CARRY EVERYONE AND THE MOTORCYCLES.
WHOOSH
SO WHAT'S THE NEXT MOVE...?


FWIK
A ROPEWAY? WITH THAT DINKY STRING?!
NO, THAT'S JUST A GUIDE...
...TO SEND THE REAL WIRE ACROSS.
!
WE'RE IN ROUBLE-TAY! DEAR KOHAKU DIDN'T TAKE A CELL PHONE, SO...
...HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY RELAY INSTRUCTIONS?
UH...THE ENEMY PLANE IS FLYING OUR WAY, SO...
...WE WOULDN'T WANT THEM EAVESDROPPING ANYWAY.
BESIDES, THIS TAUT STRING CAN ACT AS A LANDLINE.
TWNG
LANDLINE?
CAN YOU HEAR ME, LIONESS?
NOT A LIONESS!!
PHONE-BY-STRING!
OOH! LIKE WHEN WE WERE KIDS!
LOW-TECH SOLUTIONS CAN BE HANDY.


♪
TUG
TUG
Ropeway acquired!!
THE PULLEYS SLIDE ALONG THE STRETCHED CABLE, HUH?
HMPH. WHAT A SIMPLE MECHANISM.
LIKE WHEN THEY USE AERIAL WIRES TO TRANSPORT MATERIALS FOR FORESTRY!
YUP.
ONLY DANGER IS THE WEIGHT LIMIT.
KRK
KRK


LEAVE IT TO THE POWER TEAM!
WITH ME, KOHAKU, AND TSUKASA UP THERE...
...WE CAN HAUL UP 100-KILO LOADS, NO SWEAT!
UH, WE'VE GOT ENGINES AND TIRES. LEAVE THE HEAVY LIFTING TO THE MACHINES.
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE CABLE HOLDING IT TOGETHER.
WIRE MADE OF CARBON AND STEEL...
LIGHT, YET STURDY. TRULY ELEGANT. BUT...
WHAT'S THE MAX LOAD...
...THAT OUR KINGDOM OF SCIENCE ROPEWAY CAN BEAR?
ROUGHLY SPEAKING...
...THE LIMIT'S ABOUT 160 KILOGRAMS.
WE CAN BREAK DOWN THE EQUIPMENT AND CARRY IT PIECEMEAL.
SURE, IF WE MAKE THE TRIP IN PAIRS.
WE JUST NEED TO FIGURE OUT THE OPTIMAL PAIRS BASED ON BODY WEIGHT.
WAH HA HA! GOOD THING WE WEIGHED OURSELVES ALREADY!
PAIRS?
THERE'S MORE THAN JUST THE NUMBERS TO CONSIDER.


THE REAL ISSUE IS XENO.
SAY WE DON'T PUT ANY THOUGHT INTO THIS...
...AND IN THE END...
...XENO AND SUIKA ARE THE LAST ONES LEFT DOWN BELOW...
WHOOSH
OH NOOO!!
HA HA HA... THIS REMINDS ME...
...OF THE OLD RIVER-CROSSING BRAINTEASER.
YOU'RE A TRAVELER WHO NEEDS TO CROSS A RIVER...
...BUT THE BOAT CAN ONLY CARRY YOU PLUS ONE PIECE OF CARGO.
CORN
CHICKEN
FOX
AND YOU HAVE THREE THINGS WITH YOU!
IF YOU LEAVE THE FOX AND THE CHICKEN ALONE...
...THE FOX WILL CHOW DOWN ON THE CHICKEN!!
BAM
AND IF THE CHICKEN IS LEFT TO ITS DEVICES WITH THE CORN...
...THE CHICKEN'S LOOKING AT A CORN FEAST!
BAM
SO! HOW CAN YOU CROSS THE RIVER WITHOUT LOSING ANYTHING?
THIS IS A FAMOUS PUZZLE! EVER HEARD OF IT? TRY SOLVING IT, JUST FOR FUN!


THE BIGGEST CAUSE FOR CONCERN...
...WOULD BE PAIRING HYOGA AND XENO.
LEST WE FORGET...
...HYOGA KILLED TSUKASA IN THE NAME OF HIS IDEALS.
WE CAN'T BE TOO SURE WHAT HE'S THINKING RIGHT NOW.
IF HE AND XENO GET A CHANCE TO CHAT, ALONE...
HAH! I DON'T WANT TO ASSUME THE WORST, BUT...
I BELIEVE THAT DEEP DOWN...
...WE'RE MUCH ALIKE, XENO.
WHY NOT JOIN ME AND BUILD A KINGDOM OF CHOSEN ONES?
THE TWO OF US COULD FLEE TOGETHER AND RENDEZVOUS WITH STANLEY'S CREW.
HANG ON! YOU'RE BREAKING MY BRAIN OVER HERE!
DID SHE JUST SAY THAT HYOGA KILLED TSUKASA?!
CHELSEA THE BLUNT
THAT'S JUST... YEESH!
AREN'T YOU PEOPLE SUPPOSED TO BE FRIENDS?!
WHAT KINDA FREAKY RELATIONSHIP IS THAT?!
I SUPPOSE THAT WOULD SOUND BIZARRE TO YOU, DEAR CHELSEA.
WELL, I MAY AS WELL FILL YOU IN ON THE TANGLED WEB ALL OF US HERE HAVE WOVEN. ♪



Crafting Team
Battle Team
Xeno
Killed
Killed
Hyoga
Chrome
Kaseki
You're with us! ♪
Killed
Killed
Tsukasa
Gen
ERRIBLE-TAY...
Ukyo
Lifelong Buds
Taiju
Senku
Nanami Corp.
Ryusui
Francois
Luna
Kohaku
Suika
Carlos
Max
LOTTA KILLING GOING ON HERE, DON'TCHA THINK?!
ERM, WELL...
YES, WHEN YOU LAY IT ALL OUT...



ANYWAY, THE REAL PROBLEM IS XENO, RIGHT?
WHOEVER RIDES WITH HIM HAS TO MAKE SURE HE'S HOGTIED, SO...
...UNLESS IT'S SOMEONE FROM THE BATTLE TEAM, WE'RE IN FOR A BAAAD TIME.
95 kg
69 kg
= 164 kg
99 kg
69 kg
= 168 kg
WE'RE PUSHING THE LIMIT IN EITHER CASE...
...SINCE THE WEIGHT CAPACITY IS ONLY 160 KILOGRAMS.
WHOOO
I COULD ALWAYS JUMP BACK DOWN THERE...
SH
WE'RE NOT REENACTING THAT RIVER-CROSSING PUZZLE! GEEZ!
OH! LOOKS LIKE XENO AND HYOGA CAN RIDE TOGETHER!!
!
81 kg
69 kg
=
150 kg
EXCEPT THAT'S THE RISKIEST, BAAADEST PAIRING OF ALL!
HEH HEH HEH... NOT A PROBLEM.
DON'T SWEAT THE DETAILS, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE'RE ON A TIGHT SCHEDULE!
KREEK
KREEK


FSSH
VRRM
VRRM
VRRM
BAAAD!!
VRRM
VRRM
BA DUM
BA DUM
BA DUM
...


FWOOSH
SUIKA!!
!!!



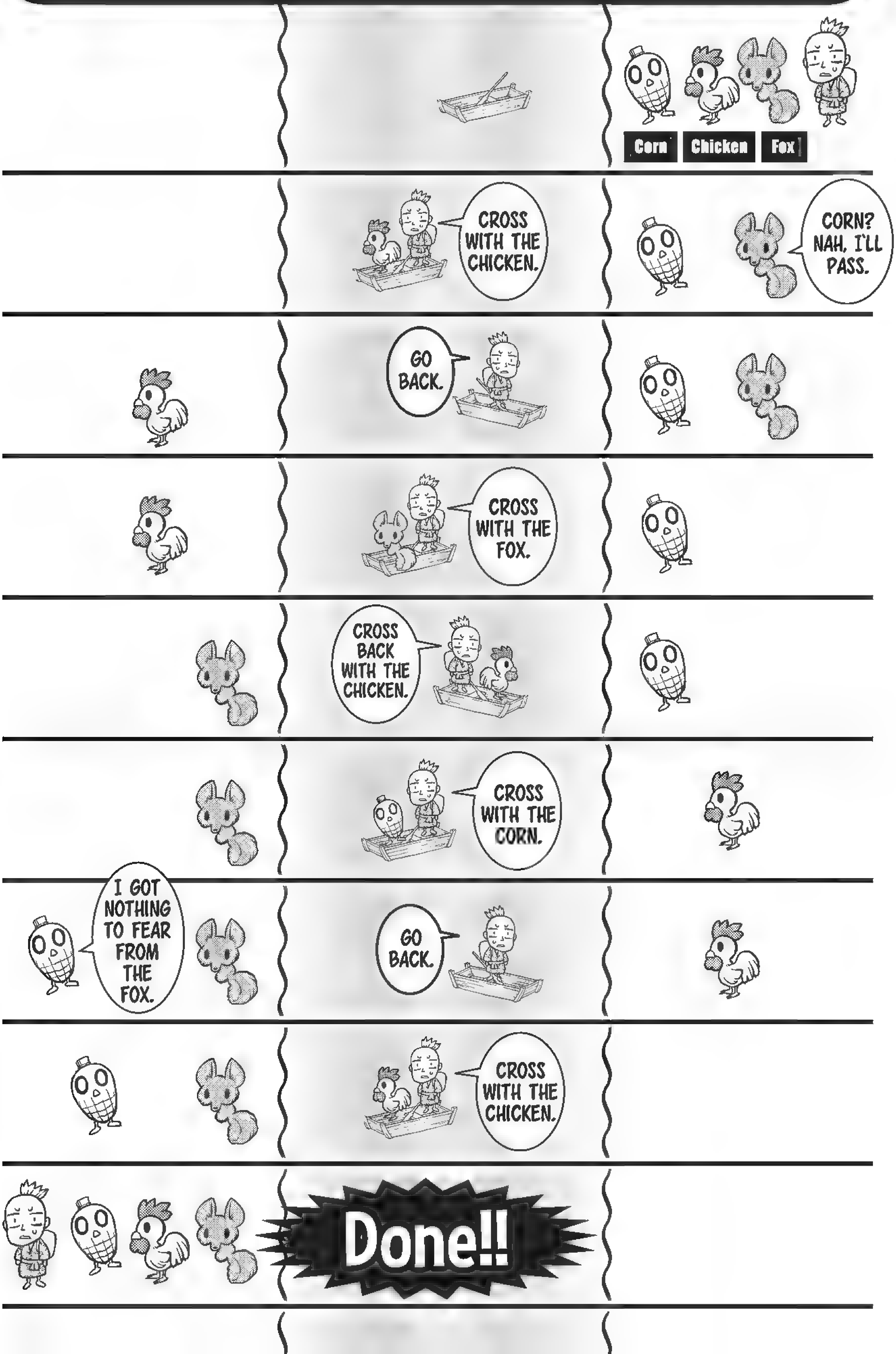

AHH, THAT WAS NEARLY AAAD-BAY.
BUT AS ALWAYS, KOHAKU LEAPS INTO ACTION...
...AND SAVES THE DAY...
IT WAS A TOTAL ACCIDENT.
BUT NOW, IN THIS MOMENT...
...AT THE TOP END OF THE ROPEWAY...
...THERE'S NO ONE WHO COULD FIGHT BACK, IF NEED BE!
IF HE WANTED TO...
...HYOGA COULD BETRAY US AT NO RISK TO HIMSELF.
I CAN'T FIGHT WHILE I'M HOLDING SUIKA.
AND EVEN I WOULDN'T SURVIVE A FALL INTO THIS CHASM...


GOOD BOY, HYOGA!
SMAK
CON-SIDER ME...
...A HYOGA FAN!!
...
THAT FRIENDSHIP WEB WAS ALL SPLIT INTO CHUNKS...
...BUT YOU ALL SURE DO GET ALONG FOR A BUNCHA FORMER ENEMIES! HOW FUNSIES!
...
IT'S TRUE.
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH ALREADY!


THE ORIGIN OF THIS MESS ISN'T FAR NOW...
...AND OUR KINGDOM OF SCIENCE...
...IS UNITED...
...AS ONE TEAM!!
BAM
E=mc²
ALL THAT'S LEFT...
...IS TO CROSS THE MOUNTAINS... EEP!
AND HOPEFULLY, THAT MASSIVE NATURAL BARRIER...
...WILL BE WAITING FOR US...


YES!
FINALLY, OUR CHANCE...
...TO LEAVE THEM IN OUR DUST!
WHOOOOOOSH
THE AMAZONIAN RAIN FOREST! WE MADE IT!
THIS IS...
...OUR WIN!

River-Crossing Brainteaser
Example Solution




IT'S THE ULTIMATE RACE ACROSS SOUTH AMERICA!
AND WE'VE ARRIVED AT THE DENSE RAIN FOREST COURSE!
Z=180: Sickening Yet Beautiful
HA HA! NOW THAT WE'VE SNUCK INTO THE AMAZON...
...WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO FEAR FROM STANLEY'S FIGHTER PLANE!
VRRRRRM
VRRM
THEY'VE SHAKEN US.
MM-HMM. SNIPING THEM FROM THE SKIES ABOVE THE DESERT WOULD'VE MADE THIS GAME ALL TOO EASY.
AND NOW THE JUNIOR SCIENCE BRIGADE GOT AWAY. THEY'VE WON THE FIRST HALF.


THOSE BIKE TRACKS COULD BE ANOTHER DECOY, NO?
NAW. THAT'S WHY WE PURPOSELY CAME AT THEM SO HARD—TO SPOOK THEM SO THEY'D MAKE THEIR ESCAPE AT TOP SPEED. NO DETOURS.
PLUS, WE LET THEM KNOW WE WERE FIXING AND REMODELING THE PLANE THROUGH OUR RADIO CONVERSATIONS.
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT, AT THE END OF THE DAY...
...CAPTAIN STANLEY WINS EVERY GAME HE PLAYS!
VRRRRRRM
NOW WE KNOW THE EXACT ROUTE...
...THOSE SCIENCE KIDS TOOK.
THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH.
OUR REAL REASON FOR FLYING AFTER THEM...
...WAS TO TRACK THEIR BIKE TRAILS.
NOW I KNOW.
THEIR ESCAPE ROUTE IS...
FLK


Z=180: Sickening Yet Beautiful
NOW WE JUST GOTTA HUSTLE AHEAD AT TOP SPEED... ♪
...TO THAT MANA PLACE...
...WHERE THE PETRI-BEAM STARTED FROM!!
WE'RE HOME FREE! THE BAD GUYS ARE GONE!
IT'S "MANAUS."
YOU SAY HUSTLE AHEAD, BUT KEEP IN MIND...
...WE'RE CUTTING ACROSS THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST.



Right under our feet...
...are hellish bugs that could kill us no problemo!
Bloodsucking Kissing Bug
Parasitic Chigoe Flea
Giant Leech
EEEK!
Ten billion percent?!
Yep, and it's not a place that'll be conquered by our soft, fragile human bodies.
We're ten billion percent sure to die!!
But one quick way to power up our fragile bodies comes courtesy of...
...humanity's wisdom...
...and scientific crafting.
OHHH!
Rubber has so many uses!
Rubber boots acquired!!
E=mc
DMM
BADMM
DMM




...
...
WHAT'RE YOU BURNING, XENO?
PLANTS OF THE APIACEAE FAMILY AND *ARTEMISIA* GENUS...
...TO CREATE AN INSECT-REPELLING MIST.
THE MOSQUITOES OF THE AMAZON ARE FEROCIOUS, SO IF I MUST TAG ALONG, I WOULD RATHER NOT BE BITTEN.
Yup. So many baaad bugs.
QUIZ TIME. WHAT IS...
...THE STRONGEST LIVING THING IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST?
GOTTA BE TSUKASA!!
HE'S NOT EXACTLY WRONG.
NO.
NOT EVEN I WOULD STAND A CHANCE...
...AGAINST THE KINGS OF THE AMAZON...
...AND THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST CREATURES.


ARMY ANTS.
NOOOOOOOO!
SKWRM SKWRM SKWRM SKWRM SKWRM
*LUNA THE BUG-HATER'S VIEW
I BELIEVE I SAW A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THEM.
ARMY ANTS...
...ATTACK IN GIANT SWARMS, REDUCING EVEN BEASTS TO NOTHING BUT BONES...
YAAAY!!
FWAP!
WHY?!!
SORRY 'BOUT THIS TRICKY TRAP.
YOU'RE JUST CATCHING THEM? LIKE IT'S NOTHING?!
GLUG


JUST LIKE HABUSHU, OR SNAKE WINE.
WE'VE TURNED THE ARMY ANT EXTRACT INTO A BOOZY COCKTAIL.
MM. KINDA SMELLS LIKE DASHI...
YEAH, THE EXTRACT DOES HAVE AN ODOR LIKE KATSUO SOUP STOCK!
FUNSIES, HUH?!
AND NOW...
...WE'LL TAKE THIS ALMIGHTY EXTRACT AND...
NO...
PLEASE, NO...
...SPLASH IT ON OURSELVES!!
HA HA! THE REAL MONSTERS OF THE AMAZON...
...GO OUTTA THEIR WAY TO AVOID THE NASTY ARMY ANTS, SO NOW THEY'LL LEAVE US ALONE TOO!!
I LEARNED THIS BIT O' WISDOM FROM THE LOCALS, WAY BACK WHEN.
YOU HAVE QUITE THE HISTORY OF FIELDWORK, DEAR CHELSEA. HOW ANTASTIC-FAY...
FWIP
I WAS SURE WE WERE GONNA DRINK IT.
I DEFINITELY PREFER THIS WAY...


SLOSH
HERE WE GO!

THE AMAZON RIVER...
...WATER-SLIDE!


FOR THIS LAST LEG...
...WE'LL RIDE THE RIVER DOWNSTREAM STRAIGHT TO GROUND ZERO! TO MANAUS!
AND THAT'S WHERE IT IS, RIGHT?!
THE ORIGINAL DEVICE THAT TURNED EVERYONE TO STONE?!
HAH! AFTER THIS GRAND ADVENTURE AROUND THE EARTH, WE'D BETTER NOT BE SENT HOME EMPTY-HANDED.
WE CAN ONLY HOPE THE TREASURE WE'RE AFTER IS REALLY THERE.
BUT SEARCHING FOR IT COULD REQUIRE ERRIBLE-TAY HELLISH LABOR...
...ESPECIALLY GIVEN HOW TINY THE MEDUSA IS...
WHAT'RE YOU WORKING ON, CHROME?
I WANT A WAY...
...TO AUTOMATICALLY SHOOT A PUFF OF THAT ANT EXTRACT INTO THE AIR AT A SET TIME.
AUTOMATIC? SET TIME...?
FWOOOM
RIGHT.
JUST LIKE THE MEDUSA'S LIGHT—


SENKU!
I GOT A BAAAD FLASH OF INSPIRATION...
...ABOUT A MACHINE TO GUARD AGAINST THE PETRI-BEAM!!
REMEMBER BACK ON TREASURE ISLAND?
THAT LITTLE STUNT WHERE THE REVIVAL FLUID HIT YOU AFTER YOU STARTED TURNING TO STONE?
WE COULD RIG THAT TO HAPPEN ON ITS OWN!
LIKE A CONSTANT, TIMED DRIP!!
UH-HUH.
FOR A SECOND, PRETEND YOU'RE WHY-MAN.
HOW WOULD YOU ACCOUNT FOR SNEAKY TRICKS LIKE THAT? OR WHAT IF THE DEVICE WAS SOMEHOW A DUD?
HOW WOULD YOU MAKE CERTAIN THAT ALL OF HUMANITY GOT WHAMMIED?
!!
WITH A MULTI-STAGE ATTACK...
...VIA MULTIPLE FIRINGS OF THE PETRI-BEAM.


!!
THE LIGHT FROM THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO TOO?
PERHAPS THERE'S MORE THAN ONE MEDUSA...
...AT THE EPICENTER WHERE IT ALL BEGAN?
HEH HEH HEH... I WONDER.
BUT SOON ENOUGH, AT LONG LAST...
...WE'LL GET TO INSPECT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME FOR OURSELVES.
GET EXCITED!!
AD5742 JAN
S M Tu W Th F S
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
17 18 19 20


WE GOTTA BE GETTING CLOSE!
IT'S TAKEN FOUR MONTHS SINCE LEAVING JAPAN...
...TO REACH THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PLANET!!
THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, THE OMINOUS LIGHT THAT PETRIFIED EVERYONE...
...CAME FROM HERE!
THIS IS GROUND ZERO!
IF WHY-MAN WAS REALLY...
...SO MALICIOUSLY HELL-BENT ON DESTROYING HUMANITY...
...TO THE POINT THAT HE THREW MULTIPLE MEDUSAS AT THE PROBLEM...
CHK
?!!!!!
AHH! F-F-FOUND IT!
THE PETRIFICATION EVICE!!
WHOA! ALREADY?! JUST LIKE THAT?!
THAT'S BAAAD, SUIKA! HOW LUCKY ARE WE, HUH?!
LUCKY?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
LOOK.
...




IT'S...
...SO SICKENING, YET BEAUTIFUL.
AND FULL OF MALICE.




THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, THAT LIGHT...
...ENVELOPED THE EARTH.
IT WAS A MALICIOUS FORCE DEAD SET ON PETRIFYING ALL OF HUMANITY.
AND SEEING...
...THE SHEER SCALE OF THAT MALICE HERE IS SICKENING.
YEAH.
WHATEVER WE MIGHT'VE TRIED...
...THERE WAS NEVER ANY ESCAPING FROM THAT FATE.
Z=181: New World Science


IF SENKU WERE AN IDIOT...
LET'S TRY TO COUNT HOW MANY THERE ARE.
ONE, TWO...
WHOA! TOO MANY, MAN!!
MORE THAN THREE, I THINK!!


CHF
<ONE METER.>
<THREE SECONDS.>


ALL RIGHT, PALS. IF I TURN INTO STONE TAIJU AGAIN...
...PLEASE TOSS SOME OF THAT SWEET REVIVAL FLUID ON ME!
BOOOSH
<ONE METER!>
<ONE SECOND!!>
<ONE METER, ONE SECOND!>
<ONE METER, ONE SECOND!>
HAH! LOOKS FUN! CAN WE HELP OUT?
<ONE METER, ONE SECOND!>


YEP, IT'S...
...JUST AS I THOUGHT.
THE MEDUSAS IN THIS BIG PILE ARE ALL OUTTA JUICE.
HMPH! I COULD'VE TOLD YOU THAT.
AND IT'S NOT EVEN ABOUT HOW MUCH TIME HAS PASSED.
THE ONE ON TREASURE ISLAND DIED AFTER ZAP-PING THE ENTIRE ISLAND, SO...
...IT'S NO SURPRISE THE ONES THAT COVERED THE ENTIRE EARTH WOULD BE DEAD TOO.
WHAT A GRAND SIGHT IT MUST HAVE BEEN...



SUCH A VAST QUANTITY OF ADVANCED WEAPONRY.
EACH ONE SHINING SO BRIGHTLY.
FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM
ON THAT DAY, THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO...
...THEY GAVE THE EARTH A COATING OF STONE.
SHOOOOM
CAN YOU IMAGINE IT?



MY DEAR XENO...
YOUR RIGHT HAND, PLEASE? ♪
WHAT DID YOU PUT IN YOUR POCKET?
A MEDUSA, PERHAPS?
THAT STIRRING SPEECH WAS JUST MIS-DIRECTION...
...TO DIVERT EVERYONE'S ATTENTION AWAY FROM YOU, YES? ♫
EVERYONE EXCEPT THIS MENTALIST.
TUG TUG
YIKES!
KNOCK IT OFF, YOU...
I HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST WHAT YOU MEAN.
WHATEVER. LEAVE HIM BE.
THE BATTERY'S DEAD, AND WE'RE GUARDING HIM ANYWAY. HE'S TOOTHLESS.
IN FACT, IF THE GOOD DOCTOR'S INTEREST IS PIQUED...
...WE OUGHTA BORROW HIS KNOWLEDGE FOR OUR RESEARCH.
CUZ OUR ONLY CHANCE OF WINNING AGAINST STANLEY'S PEOPLE...
...INVOLVES USING THE MEDUSA.


BUT...EVEN WITH SO MANY OF THEM...
...IF THEY'RE ALL USELESS...
...THEN THERE'S NO POINT...
NOT EXACTLY.
THE VAST QUANTITY DOES GIVE US A NEW OPTION.
RIGHT, SENKU?
YEAH.
WHAM
HA HA! OF COURSE!
WE HAVE TO LEAVE THE DELICATE AUTOPSIES TO EXPERTS LIKE JOEL, BUT...
...SMASHING THESE APART IS A SIMPLE MATTER!
AND MATSUKAZE'S TESTIMONY TOLD US IT'S POSSIBLE!
OUR SINGLE MEDUSA, BACK THERE, WAS A RARE AND PRECIOUS THING...
...SO BREAKING IT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION!
BUT NOW, WE'VE GOT MOUNTAINS OF THEM TO CRACK OPEN! AM I WRONG?!
HEH HEH HEH... EVERY SCIENCE-MINDED KID...
...LOVES NOTHING MORE THAN...
...TAKING STUFF APART! TIME TO GET TO WORK!!
SPLSH
SPLSH


SPLSHHH
UGH... WHERE ARE STANLEY'S PEOPLE...
...TAKING THE SHIP NOW? GOT ANY IDEAS, MATSUKAZE?
I DO NOT, THOUGH IT SHAMES ME TO SAY SO.
I SURMISE THAT SENKU'S BAND...
...HAS ALREADY EVADED OUR CAPTORS.
SO, Y'THINK THE JUNIOR SCIENCE BRIGADE...
...IS KICKING BACK AND RELAXING NOW?
I'M NOT SURE. THOSE KIDS'RE SHARP.
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM EITHER WAY.
THEIR BIKE TRAILS...
...INDICATE THAT THEY ESCAPED DOWN THE AMAZON RIVER. NO MISTAKING IT.


SAHARA
AFRICA
THE YOUNGSTERS WILL HAVE TO CONSTRUCT A NEW SHIP.
AMAZON
SOUTH AMERICA
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
THAT WILL INCUR A CONSIDERABLE DELAY, SO...
...EVEN TAKING THE LONG WAY AROUND, WE'RE BOUND TO CATCH UP.
BADUM
BADUM
HANG ON. THEY'LL HAVE A NEW BOAT?
HOW WILL WE EVEN RECOGNIZE IT?
WHAT WE SEE WITH OUR EYES DOESN'T MATTER. THESE RADIO WAVES...
...WILL DETECT ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY. YOU CAN'T HIDE...
...FROM RADAR!
FROM THE EYES OF SCIENCE!!


KRZT
KRZT
KRZT
KRZT
TOK
TOK
HMPH! I'M SURE YOU GUYS WOULD TINKER FOR AGES, IF YOU COULD...
...BUT AS SOON AS THIS VESSEL IS SHIPSHAPE, WE'RE GOING.
YEAH, YEAH... WE'LL JUST TAKE A BOATLOAD OF MEDUSAS WITH US.
YES, OF COURSE. GIVEN THAT WE'RE HEADING OUT TO SEA AGAIN...
...A FEW RAGTAG RAFTS WILL HARDLY DO.
AND...
...YET...
WHAT'S WITH THE BIZARRE SHAPE?!
KLAK
I WAS WONDERIN' THE SAME THING.
BIZARRE? I THINK THE SHARP AND JAGGY LOOK IS COOL AS HECK!
KLAK
WHAT IS IT WITH BOYS AND SHARP EDGES...
SUIKA THINKS ROUND THINGS ARE MUCH CUTER.
IT'S GOT ALL THESE SLANTING FACES...
...WITH LOTS OF UPWARD-FACING ANGLES.
...WHAT I THINK IT IS...?
IS THIS...
OF COURSE OUR SONAR MAN WOULD RECOGNIZE THIS.



WHEN STANLEY AND HIS PEOPLE CATCH UP...
...THE WAY...
...TO BEAT THE NET CAST BY THEIR RADAR IS WITH...
...A STEALTH VESSEL!!
KACHK KACHK
KRZT KRZT
?
RYUSUI'S GOT A SPRING IN HIS STEP, HUH? HOW FUNSIES!
CAN YOU BLAME ME? EVEN WITH ALL MY CRAZY DESIRES...
...I'VE NEVER OWNED A GENUINE STEALTH SHIP!
NATURALLY. WHY WOULD A CITIZEN NEED TO HIDE FROM RADAR?
SHELF VEST ILL?
STEALTH MEANS "COVERT." IT WILL BE A SHIP THAT IS INVISIBLE TO RADIO WAVES.
ARE YOU TELLING ME...
...OUR SCIENCE CRAFTING PROJECTS ARE ALREADY AT THIS SCALE?
WE'RE BASICALLY TALKING SCIENCE USED IN MODERN-DAY WARFARE...
SO THE GEOMETRIC DESIGN WILL KEEP THIS SHIP OFF THEIR RADAR?
THAT'S THE GIST OF IT.
LIKE WE TALKED ABOUT EARLIER, RADAR WORKS BY "SEEING" THE WAVES THAT COME BOUNCING BACK.


NORMAL SHIP.
DING
YEAH! GOT A CLEAN VIEW!!
NOTHING BUT SLANTED FACES AND ANGLES.
D-DING
DING
CAN'T SPOT A THING...
LET'S ADD SOME MATERIAL THAT ABSORBS THE WAVES, TOO.
OHO HO! THERE'RE ALL SORTS OF USES FOR RUBBER.
NAMELY, RUBBER FULL OF FINE CARBON POWDER!
THERE ARE VARIOUS DESIGNS THAT WOULD HELP...
...HIDE A CRAFT FROM DETECTION BY RADAR.
EVEN I DON'T KNOW SOME OF THOSE MILITARY SECRETS...
...SO WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE A TRIAL-AND-ERROR APPROACH.
HEH HEH HEH... I BET THE FORMER NASA SCIENTIST KNOWS A THING OR TWO ABOUT THIS TOPIC.
I'M HAPPY TO CONTRIBUTE MY SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE IF IT CONCERNS MY OWN WELL-BEING.
BUT YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO AID YOUR EFFORTS TO DECEIVE STANLEY, CAN YOU?
MAN, YOU SUCK XENO!
TOK
TOK


Stealth ship acquired!


MAYBE THOSE SHARP EDGES ARE COOL AFTER ALL!
RIIIGHT?
AESTHETICS DON'T MATTER. FUNCTION DOES.
SO LET'S TEST ITS STEALTH CAPABILITIES.
SENKU PHONE
TEST
IS IT SHOWING UP...
...ON RADAR? OR IS IT...
...INVISIBLE?
C'MON! TELL US!!
ERM. HOW DO I PUT THIS?
WELL...
IT'S STEALTH-ISH?
I MEAN, IT'S KINDA HARD TO DETECT...FOR ITS SIZE.
STEALTH-ISH! OH NO!!


THAT MEANS WE WON'T BE HIDDEN FROM THEM?
A MILITARY-GRADE CREATION ON OUR FIRST ATTEMPT WAS NEVER GONNA HAPPEN.
WHAT COMES NEXT IS MODIFYING IT LIKE OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT.
HARD TO DETECT...FOR ITS SIZE?
SO BEING LARGER IN VOLUME...
...MAKES IT EASIER TO SEE ON RADAR, HUH?
EXACTLY. SAME AS THE NAKED EYE.
THEN...
...WHEN THIS HUGE MASS OF MEDUSAS RAINED DOWN THAT DAY...
IT'S NOT AS IF WE USED TO BE ABLE TO MONITOR EVERY LITTLE ASTEROID THAT PASSED BY THE EARTH.
BUT ONE WOULD IMAGINE, WITH THIS QUANTITY...
...THAT NASA AND EVERY OBSERVATORY AROUND WOULD HAVE NOTICED. AND YET, NOT A PEEP.
...WHY'D NOBODY NOTICE THEM...
...UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE, EVEN WITH ALL THAT 21ST-CENTURY TECH?
...
THEN MAYBE ...
...THIS ODD SHAPE...



BADUM
BADUM
TEST
...DOESN'T SHOW UP...
...ON RADAR!
HAH! TO KEEP HUMANITY FROM DETECTING THEM, HUH?
THE MALICIOUS FORCE BEHIND THIS SCHEME REALLY THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING.
IF THE DEVICES AREN'T DETECTED BY RADAR—
YEAH, THEN SOMETHING INSIDE THAT MYSTERIOUS CIRCUITRY...
...MUST BE ABSORBING THE RADIO WAVES.


IN THAT CASE...
...WHY NOT JUST...
...STICK A BAAAD AMOUNT OF THESE THINGS ALL OVER OUR SHIP?


YEAHHH!
SPLISH SPLISH SPLISH
SPLASH SPLASH SPLASH SPLASH
Futuristic stealth ship acquired!
HEH HEH HEH... THIS IS OUR FIRST...
...NEW WORLD CRAFTING PROJECT THAT BLASTS PAST 21ST-CENTURY TECH!
HA HA! SEEMS TO ME THAT GOING FORWARD...
...WE'LL BE DIVING...
...INTO THE REALM OF FUTURISTIC SCIENCE!
SCIENCE IS...
...TRULY...
...ELEGANT.


IF SENKU WERE AN IDIOT...
FWAP
THE SCIENCE-ISH TRICK TO HIDE FROM STANLEY'S RADAR...
...IS THIS!!

Z=182: Diamond Heart




Z=182: Diamond Heart
KACHAM
MEDUSA
I'M REAL GRATEFUL...
...TO HAVE A WHOLE MOUNTAIN OF SAMPLES TO WORK WITH!
HA HA! WITH SO MANY MEDUSAS TO ANALYZE...
...WE'LL FIGURE OUT HOW TO REACTIVATE THEM...
...SO THAT WE HAVE A FIGHTING CHANCE AGAINST STANLEY'S GANG!
VICTORY WILL BE, QUITE LITERALLY...
...IN THE PALMS OF OUR HANDS! AM I WRONG?!
SNAAAP
TMP
TMP
AND THAT'S...
...THE GIST OF IT.
SHOULD THE GREAT DR. XENO REALLY BE HELPING...
...TO ANALYZE A DANGEROUS WEAPON THAT COULD TURN STANLEY INTO A STATUE?
BAM
IF I WERE TO USE POLITICS TO EXCUSE MYSELF FROM BASIC RESEARCH...
...THAT WOULD GIVE YOU THE SCIENTIFIC ADVANTAGE, WHICH IS FAR MORE DANGEROUS IN MY MIND!


AND NATURALLY...
...IN THE EVENT THAT I COME ACROSS A DISCOVERY THAT ESCAPES YOUR GRASP...
...I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SHARING MY FINDINGS.
HEH HEH HEH... HAVE IT YOUR WAY, BUT I SAY THAT SHARING MAKES THE WHOLE PROCESS RUN SMOOTHER.
SPLASH
SPLASH
A-3 B-6
A-3 B-7
A-4 B-7
A-4 B-8
A-5 B-7
A-5 B-8
INSIDE...
...EACH MEDUSA...
...IS A BLACKENED DIAMOND.
JUST AS JOEL REPORTED.



SMASHING THE SAMPLES APART LEAVES US WITH COUNTLESS TINY COMPONENTS...
...BUT THE FACT THAT THIS ONE IS *IDENTIFIABLE* IS KEY.
JOEL IS A MASTER TECHNICIAN WHEN IT COMES TO FULLY JEWELED WATCHES, AND WITHOUT HIS ELEGANT ANALYSIS...
...WE MAY NEVER HAVE CAUGHT THIS.
AS ALWAYS, KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!
THE CHARRED BITS...
...MAKE IT HARD TO TELL MUCH ABOUT THE CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OR IF THE REFRACTIVE INDEX IS SOMEHOW DISTORTED.
?
?
ANY REGULARITY TO THE BLACKENING?
NOPE. NONE AT ALL.
WE'VE CRACKED OPEN A THOUSAND OF THESE THINGS...
...AND EVERY LAST DIAMOND SHOWS A DIFFERENT BLACKENING PATTERN.
SO THE PATTERNS AREN'T PLANNED OR DELIBERATE, HUH?
ARE THESE DISORDERLY ALTERATIONS SIMPLY THE RESULT OF DAMAGE?
!!!
OOH! BAAAAD STUFF, HERE!
I FOUND A DIAMOND THAT'S NOT BLACK AT ALL!!


THIS IS...
WE'RE THINKING THAT THE DIAMOND WORKS LIKE A BATTERY, YEAH?
WHICH MEANS THIS ONE COULD BE GOOD AS NEW!!
THEN WE'D BETTER SEARCH...
...FOR A MEDUSA EQUIPPED WITH A CLEAN DIAMOND!
MEDUSA
SHFFF
<ONE METER, THREE SECONDS.>


...
IT'S HARDLY GOOD AS NEW.
IT MIGHT BE A DUD. LIKE A BOMB THAT NEVER WENT OFF...


I SEE CRACKS. LIKELY ALONG THE CLEAVAGE PLANES.
*PLANES WITHIN THE STRUCTURE WHERE THE CRYSTAL BOND IS NATURALLY WEAKER AND PRONE TO CRACKING.
IN DIAMONDS, THESE ARE LOCATED AT THE CENTER OF THE RHOMBUSES.
IT'S TRUE. THE CLEAN DIAMONDS...
...HAVE CRACKS IN THEM!
HEH HEH HEH... NOW YOU'RE WILLING TO SHARE, PROFESSOR?
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
AFTER ALL...
...YOU WERE SURE TO NOTICE AS WELL, SENKU.


THE OTHER NON-BLACKENED ONES.
THEY'RE EITHER CHIPPED, CRACKED ...
...OR JUST A BIT SMALLER THAN THE OTHERS.
HMPH! IT SEEMS THE MINOR DEFECTS KEPT THESE DUDS FROM FIRING! THEY'RE NEW, BUT NOT GOOD AS NEW!
MEANWHILE, THE BLACKENED DIAMONDS THAT GOT USED...
...ARE PERFECT IN EVERY OTHER WAY.
ALSO, DON'T THEIR SHAPES...
...ALL LOOK THE SAME?
DOES THAT MEAN WHAT I THINK IT MEANS?
WELL, IT'S STILL JUST A HYPOTHESIS, BUT...
IF WE HAD A DIAMOND THAT'S TEN BILLION PERCENT THE CORRECT SHAPE...
...AND GOOD AS NEW, WITHOUT CRACKS OR SCRATCHES...
...WE COULD CRAM IT INTO A MEDUSA...
...AND POWER IT RIGHT BACK UP!!

WE'RE MAKING A DIAMOND!
START
Methanol
Alcohol
Tungsten
Electricity
Filament
GOAL
Diamond
Technician
Limitless Medusa!!


SAY WHAAAAT?!
THAT'S AS INSANE A PLAN AS EVER.
HOW'S SOMEONE S'POSED TO JUST MAKE A DIAMOND?!
WHY DIDN'T EVERYONE IN THE OLD WORLD DO IT AND RAKE IN THE DOUGH?
ACTUALLY, I DON'T DOUBT SENKU COULD PULL IT OFF.
MAN, I WISH I'D HAD A PAL LIKE HIM BACK THEN...
JOEL THE PRO TECH IS GONNA GRIND IT DOWN...
...AND SEE HOW IT MAKES THE MECHANISM WORK, BUT FIRST...
BEEP BEEP BOOP
SINCE SENKU AND DR. XENO ARE AWAY...
EASIER SAID THAN DONE...
...WHEN WE DON'T HAVE A PROFESSIONAL SCIENTIST ON HAND!
NOT SO FAST.
THE PROS DON'T HOLD AN EXCLUSIVE PATENT ON SCIENCE.
...YOU ALL ARE GONNA MAKE THIS DIAMOND!


TO MAKE A DIAMOND, YOU'LL NEED SOME INGREDIENTS.
METHANOL, AND...
...THAT'S IT!!
NO FREAKIN' WAY!
WORST CASE, YOU COULD USE WHATEVER BOOZE THEY'VE GOT THERE, THOUGH IT WOULD REQUIRE AN EXTRA STEP OR TWO.
HERE IN DR. XENO'S CHAMBER!
WE'VE GOT METHANOL!
METHANOL
ANYONE CAN DO IT.
WHETHER SINNER...
...OR SAINT.
FOLLOWING THE SAME STEPS...
...YIELDS THE SAME RESULTS.
THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT OF SCIENCE.


NOW HEAT IT UP A TON, AND YOU'RE DONE!
WANNA GIVE US A FEW MORE DETAILS?!
THE HEAT REQUIRED...
...WILL COME FROM A TUNGSTEN FILAMENT.
THAT TUNG-STUFF SOUNDS FAMILIAR.
WAIT, AIN'T THAT ONE OF THE ROCKS I DUG UP?
YES, THE ONE USED TO CRAFT A LIGHT BULB.
THE ULTIMATE METAL WHEN IT COMES TO ENDURING HEAT!
JUST TWIST THE TUNGSTEN WIRE INTO A COIL...
...AND YOU'VE GOT A FILAMENT THAT STANDS UP TO HEAT!
WE PLACE THE ALCOHOL...
...IN HOT WATER, UNTIL IT STARTS STEAMING.
METHA
NOW WE RAISE THE HEAT ON THAT FILAMENT.
MWA HA HA! SIMPLE ENOUGH!
JUST GOTTA TURN ON THE ELECTRICITY, RIGHT?
SHAH
KABOOM


WHAT EXPLODED ?!
NOT ENTIRELY SURE...
HEY, UH, MAYBE THIS IS A JOB FOR THE ENEMY MECHANIC!
LET'S JUST ASK OLD BRODY TO HANDLE THIS PART!
NO!
SENKU MUST'VE ASKED US TO CRAFT THIS DIAMOND FOR A REASON.
SO WE SHOULDN'T LET THE ENEMY GET INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS.
IT'S LIKE HE SAID...
SCIENCE ISN'T JUST FOR THE EGGHEADS.
WHICH IS WHY WE CAN DO THIS.
THAT DIAMOND'S GETTING MADE!



MAYBE SOME AIR GOT IN THERE, AND THAT'S WHY IT BLEW UP.
IN THAT CASE, WE NEED THE ALCOHOL VAPOR...
...TO SHOVE THE AIR OUTTA THE WAY BEFORE WE APPLY THE HEAT.
Burning to ensure that the output is 100 percent alcohol vapor
Filament
Receptacle
Water
METHANOL
Alcohol
DONE.
FOR REAL?
ALL CHARRED.
PERHAPS THE TEMPERATURE WAS TOO LOW?
LET'S TURN UP THE ELECTRICITY.
KZZT
MAX
SHUUUH


NOW THERE'S NO JUICE RUNNING THROUGH IT AT ALL—
GAH! WHAT'RE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?!
WHAT WENT WRONG NOW?
AHA! THIS SPOT WITH THE TWO WIRES THAT PROVIDES THE ZAP...
THEY'RE CONNECTED!!
ACCIDENTALLY COMPLETING THE CIRCUIT WHERE NOT INTENDED IS AN INCREDIBLY COMMON MISTAKE AND NOT SOMETHING TO BEAT ONESELF UP OVER!
THEY'RE RIDICULOUSLY TINY, BUT...
AREN'T...
...THE LITTLE PARTICLES SPARKLING?!


Diamond acquired!!

Xeno's Science Kingdom

KNIGHT FILE 10



Joel

Craftsmanship: ★★★★★

Communication: ★★

Romantic Experience: ★

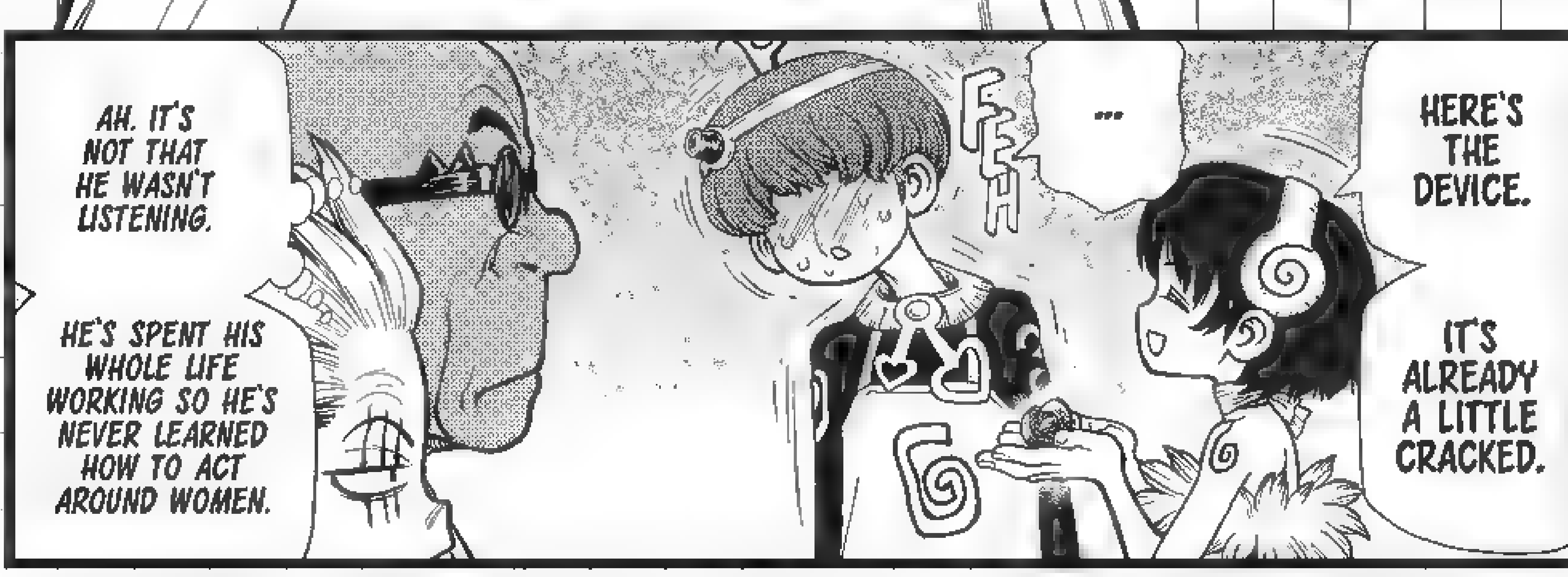


- **Full Name:** Joel Gear
- **Height:** 168 cm
- **Profession:** Technician

An ace technician who worked for a classy watch brand, Joel's brimming with confidence and highly respected by his colleagues. He can be brusque when interacting with others, and the only thing he trusts is his own talent.

"Communication? Feh. Who needs it?" is exactly the excuse used by those who have trouble communicating. However, he's happy to spend time with other skilled men. Sharing drinks while chatting about a hard day's work is his idea of a good time.

Joel also respects skilled women, but when it comes to *young women*... he desperately feigns disinterest. But we can see right through him.




WOO-HOO! WE REALLY CRAFTED A DIAMOND...
...STARTING FROM SCRATCH!!
WE'RE GONNA BE ZILLION-AIRES!
AS A PRO, MY EYES CAN CERTIFY...
...THAT THIS IS A GENUINE DIAMOND.
PHEW... THANK GOODNESS WE FINALLY PULLED IT OFF.
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY AS BIG AS A GRAIN OF SAND.
IT'S WAY TOO SMALL TO SERVE AS A MEDUSA BATTERY.
HOW DO WE MAKE IT BIGGER?
MAKING LARGE DIAMONDS IN A LAB IS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE.
SOOO...
SO...
??
Z=183: Stone Sanctuary


SKCH SKCH SKCH SKCH
GOT YER DIAMONDS RIGHT HERE!
IF THE EXPEDITION TEAM SETS OUT FROM XENO'S CASTLE...
...THEY'LL GET THERE IN ABOUT A WEEK!
Z=183: Stone Sanctuary
GO DIG UP SOME NATURAL DIAMONDS!
SENKU
WHAAAT?!
TH- THEN...WHY'D WE GO TO SO MUCH TROUBLE?!
ALL THAT LABOR AND HEARTACHE...
YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!!
RELAAAX, DUMMY. WE NEED BOTH, ACTUALLY.
DIAMONDS ARE JUST CARBON—ANOTHER TYPE OF STONE HANGING OUT IN THE EARTH.
BUT THE MOMENT THAT PEOPLE...
...GET THEIR HANDS ON THOSE STONES...
...THEY TRANSFORM INTO TREASURES!


THE LASSEN PEAK AREA'S GOT A LAVA DOME! SHIELD VOLCANOES! CINDER CONES AND STRATOVOLCANO ACTION! ALL PACKED SO CLOSE, I COULD LOL ABOUT IT! AND THEY'RE GONNA EXPLORE IT!!
THE LAST ERUPTION WAS AROUND THE YEAR 1900, AND IT BROUGHT SOME KIMBERLITE MAGMA UP TO THE SURFACE. I'VE SEEN THE STUFF! REAL KIMBERLITE!
THERE WASN'T MUCH AT THE TIME, BUT IT'S BEEN THOUSANDS OF YEARS SINCE THEN, YEAH? SO THEY'RE SURE TO FIND WHAT WE NEED.
FLAIL FLAIL
C-COME AGAIN?
CAN I GET AN INTER-PRETER?
ERM, WAS SHE SPEAKING IN TONGUES?
WAS THAT TOO FAST FOR YOU?
SHE SAID, "I KNOW WHERE TO DIG IF WE NEED A FEW NATURAL DIAMONDS."
POP QUIZ! WHICH ARE TOUGHER?
LAB-MADE DIAMONDS OR NATURAL DIAMONDS?


OOH, I KNOW! GOTTA BE THE NATURAL ONES!
OH YEAH? I'M BETTING IT'S THE ONES MADE WITH SCIENCE!
AND THERE WE ARE—THE UNFOUNDED BELIEF THAT NATURE PRODUCES HIGHER-QUALITY RESOURCES THAN MAN.
HOW PERFECTLY IRONIC...
...THAT THE ONE WITHOUT THE PRODIGIOUS BENEFIT OF 21ST-CENTURY KNOWLEDGE MANAGED TO ARRIVE AT THE CORRECT ANSWER!
The winner is me!!
Aw, dang!
SINCE DIAMOND'S THE HARDEST SUBSTANCE WE KNOW, ONLY OTHER DIAMONDS CAN SCRATCH AND GRIND IT.
AND BECAUSE LAB-MADE ONES...
...ARE HARDER THAN NATURAL ONES BY A LOT...
...WE'RE GONNA TURN THE LAB-MADE GRAINS INTO A RASP, LIKE SANDPAPER!
HMPH! I GET IT!
WE'LL GRIND DOWN AND POLISH A BIG NATURAL DIAMOND WITH THE SMALLER LAB-MADE ONES...
...TO MAKE A BRAND-NEW DIAMOND BATTERY...
...THAT'LL PERFECTLY FIT A MEDUSA DEVICE!


I ONLY NEED TO CRAFT A DIAMOND...
...IDENTICAL TO THIS BLACKENED ONE?
LEAVE IT TO ME, THE PROFES-SIONAL.
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN PRECISION GRINDING QUITE LIKE WHAT I CAN DO!
GREAT TO HEAR! WE'LL BE ROOTING FOR YA, SINCE THAT'S ALL WE CAN DO.
SHUV
FEH!
AND ON...
...THAT NOTE...
...THIS WILL BE THE GLOBETROTTING TEAM'S...
...LAST COMMUNICATION TO YOU FOLKS.


?!!!!
WAIT, BUT WHY?!
ON THE OFF CHANCE THAT...
...STANLEY'S GANG IS TRAVELING ALL THE WAY AROUND SOUTH AMERICA—
OFF CHANCE? IT'S MORE LIKELY THAN THAT, GIVEN HOW OBSESSIVE HE IS.
AS THE TRUE CAPTAIN OF THE *PERSEUS*, I KNOW THE ROUTE THEY'RE TAKING...
...AND IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THEY'RE ON TOP OF US.
USING THE RADIO NEAR THEM WOULD GIVE AWAY OUR POSITION...
...WHICH WOULD DEFEAT THE POINT OF BUILDING THIS STEALTH SHIP.


KEEP IN MIND, JOEL, THAT WE'RE STILL OPEN TO ONE-WAY COMMUNICATION FROM YOUR END.
BUT ONLY DROP US A LINE ONCE YOU'VE MASTERED MAKING DIAMOND BATTERIES.
SOME ROUNDABOUT PHRASING...
...SO AS NOT TO GIVE AWAY OUR TRUE INTENTION...
...REGARDING THIS MINI MOUNTAIN OF MEDUSAS...
...AND HOW WE'RE PLANNING TO USE THEM AGAINST STANLEY'S GANG. ♫
WE WON'T GET TO TALK AGAIN...
...UNTIL THIS BATTLE IS OVER.


SHWP
SHWP
SHF
SHF
SHF
SHF
??
OH, DON'T MIND ME. MY HANDS TEND TO FIDGET WHEN I'M DEEP IN THOUGHT.
RIGHT, SURE! I KNOW HOW THAT IS SOMETIMES!
KZZT KZZT
KZZT
KZZT
BUT SAY JOEL DOES FIGURE OUT THE TRICK TO MAKIN' MEDUSA DIAMOND BATTERIES...
EVEN IF HE EXPLAINS IT TO US...
...HOW'RE WE GONNA DO IT OURSELVES?
YEAH, WITHOUT THE KEY COMPONENT— THE DIAMONDS.
AND HANG ON! WHERE'S THIS STEALTH SHIP HEADED NOW ANYWAY?
OH! OH! I KNOW!


ARAXÁ!
A-RA-SHA?
HEH HEH HEH... BINGO. ONE QUADRILLION POINTS FOR YOU.
FWOOOOM
ARAXÁ WAS A MUNICIPALITY IN BRAZIL!
THE SPRAWLING AMAZON RAIN FOREST AND SOME CRAZY LONG RIVERS GAVE RISE TO...
...MIRACLE VEINS OF ORE!
A WHOLE BUNCHA RARE EARTH METALS...
...FLOWED TO THAT SPOT AND BUILT UP OVER TIME.
IT'S THE HOLY LAND FOR ROCKS!
A TRUE STONE SANCTUARY!!



THAT'S WHERE...
...WE'RE FOUNDING SUPERALLOY CITY!!
THAT LOCATION IS HOME TO METALS...
...NEEDED FOR ROCKET ENGINES. ONES THAT CAN'T BE FOUND ELSE-WHERE.
HEAPS OF DIAMONDS AND GEMS TOO!
AH, SO WE WERE ALWAYS PLANNING TO BUILD ONE OF THE CITIES THERE.
AND IT'LL ALSO GIVE US DIAMONDS FOR THE MEDUSA BATTERIES!
THAT'S TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!
DEAR XENO, I SUPPOSE YOU HAD AN INKLING... ♫
...THAT ARAXÁ WAS OUR ULTIMATE DESTINATION IN SOUTH AMERICA, RIGHT?
I KNEW SENKU WOULDN'T OVERLOOK THE VALUABLE RESOURCES HE NEEDS.
WE'RE BOTH ROCKET SPECIALISTS, AFTER ALL.
KCHK

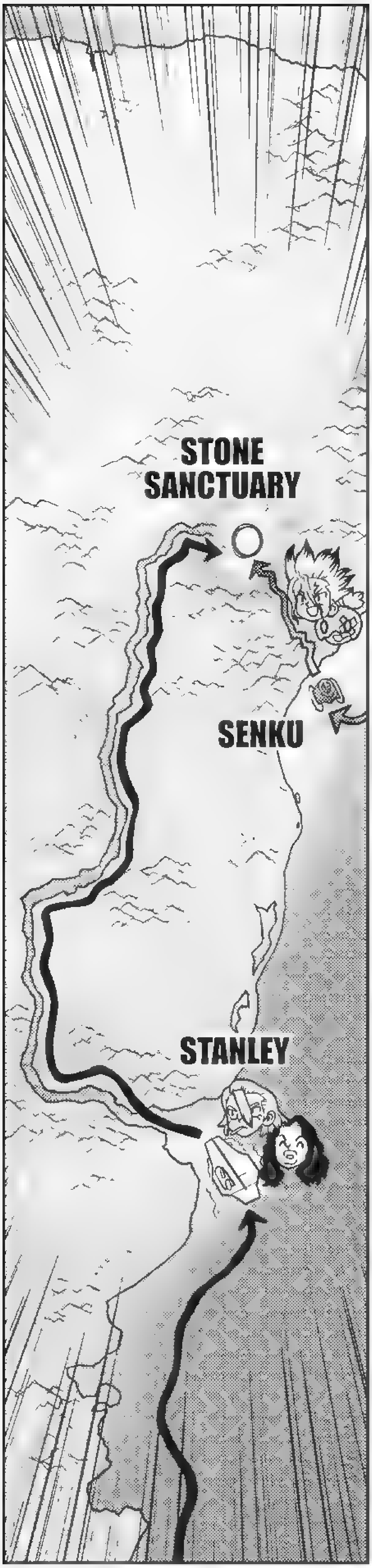


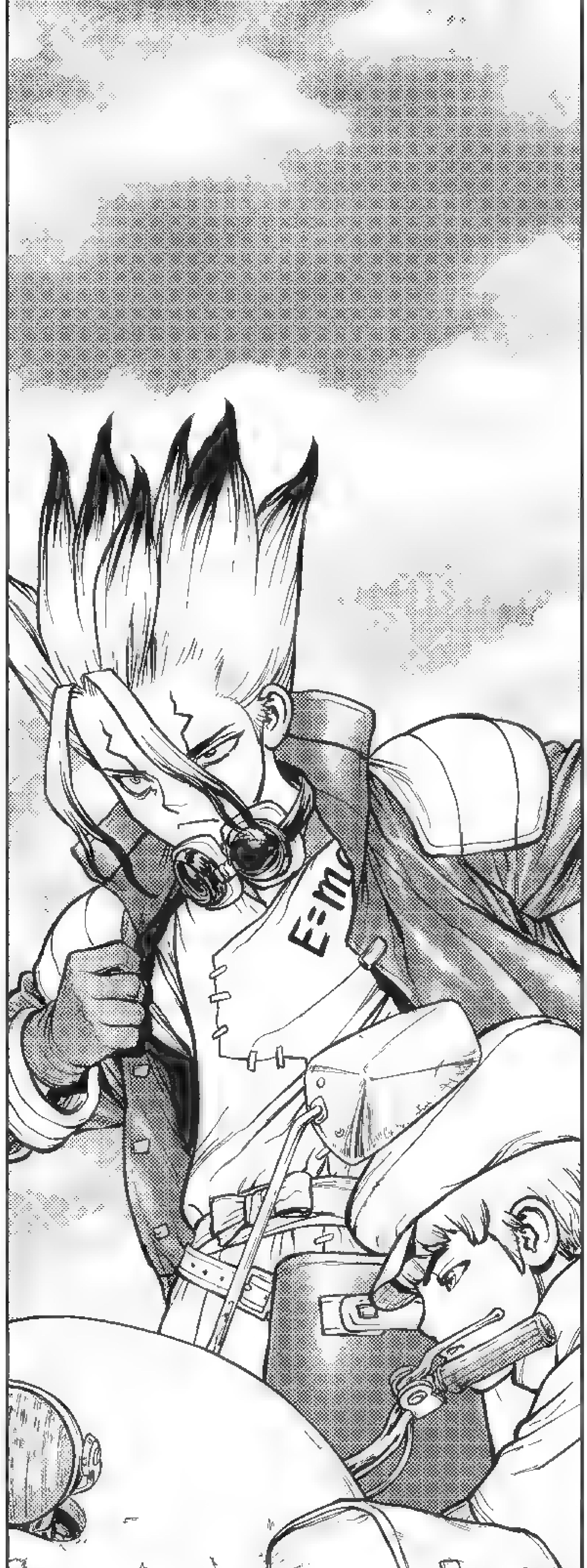
KZZT
KZZT
WE'RE GETTING SOME WEIRD STATIC.
MAYBE THEY'RE COMMUNICATING...
A MEANINGLESS SIGNAL, BUT DEFINITELY MAN-MADE NOISE.
THE PATTERN IS TOO REGULAR TO BE NATURAL.
KZZT KZZT
KZZT
HE MUST'VE WORKED IT INTO...
...THE JUNIOR SCIENCE BRIGADE'S OUTGOING MESSAGE.
FLIK
IT'S FROM XENO.
SOME SORTA WARNING FOR US.
ABOUT WHAT, THOUGH?
WITH RADAR ON OUR SIDE, THOSE KIDS ARE AS GOOD AS OURS.
OUR VICTORY IS ASSURED!
RADAR JAMMING?
A STEALTH SHIP?
MAYBE ANTI-RADIATION MISSILES?
ZERO CHANCE OF THAT!
ZERO? NOT WHEN IT COMES TO SENKU...
...AND THAT JUNIOR SCIENCE BRIGADE OF HIS.
AND XENO WOULDN'T SEND A POINTLESS ALERT.
WHEN THEY MADE THEIR GETAWAY ON THE BIKES...
...XENO GAVE ME A MESSAGE BY BLINKING.


THE GOAL IS...
ARAXÁ!


UM, ARE WE ALREADY THERE?
NAH, NOT QUITE.
WE'LL REACH THAT HOLY LAND ON FOOT...
...WITH A WICKED-QUICK SHORTCUT!
SPLASH
SPLASH
CHANGE OF COURSE!!
CALL OFF THE HUNT! INSTEAD, WE'LL BEAT THEM...
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
...TO THEIR...
...FINAL DESTINATION!
SPLASH


Elevator acquired!
WHOOOOOSH
FUNSIES! ANOTHER NEW VEHICLE, KINDA!!
HARDLY "FUNSIES"! THIS LAND ROUTE IS BRUTAL!
WE'VE GONE FROM MOUNTAINS TO SHEER CLIFFS!
BUT ONLY AT THE BEGINNING. WE CAN BREAK OUT THE BIKES AFTER THIS.
YOU CALL THIS AN ELEVATOR, BUT...
...IT'S REALLY JUST A VERTICAL ROPEWAY.

STONE SANCTUARY
SENKU
STANLEY




WE MADE IT HERE FIRST.
NOW, WHEN THE KIDDIES SHOW UP...
...WE'LL MAKE SWISS CHEESE OUTTA THEM.


ONCE I PERFECT THE DIAMOND BATTERY METHOD...
...HUMANITY WILL HAVE...
...THE PETRI-BEAM ON OUR SIDE.
GETTING SOME DIAMONDS FOR BATTERIES...
...WILL GIVE US OUR BEST FIGHTING CHANCE AGAINST STANLEY!
A MEDUSA MACHINE GUN TO TURN THE TIDE!!


THE FINAL BATTLE WILL GO DOWN DEEP IN THE AMAZON...
...AT THE STONE SANCTUARY!!



GRAND ADVENTURE ACROSS THE AMERICAS MAP
Xeno's Science Kingdom
Chelsea's Dwelling
Amazon River
THE AMAZON RIVER...
...WATER-SLIDE!
...SO SICKENING, YET BEAUTIFUL.
IT'S...
AND FULL OF MALICE.
Mountain of Medusas at Ground Zero, Manaus
Panama Canal
Rubber Tree Forest
The Andes
Stone Sanctuary, Araxá
A WHOLE BUNCHA RARE EARTH METALS...
...FLOWED TO THAT SPOT AND BUILT UP OVER TIME
IT'S THE HOLY LAND FOR ROCKS!
A TRUE STONE SANCTUARY!!



Z=184: Fort Medusa


THE PEBBLES SEPARATED ALL ON THEIR OWN!
THE ORE GETS SORTED BY SPECIFIC GRAVITY. FUNSIES, RIGHT?
THE DENSER STUFF COLLECTS ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAN, SEE?
YEAH, JUST LIKE PANNING FOR GOLD!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE EARTH DID, OVER TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS...
...GIVING RISE TO THESE MIRACLE VEINS...
...IN ARAXÁ!!
RMBL RMBL RMBL RMBL
SHF SHF SHF SHF
OHHH!!
THE WHOLE EARTH, THOUGH? OVER ALL THOSE YEARS?
THAT'S TOO MUCH TO WRAP MY HEAD AROUND...
THE SCALE OF IT ALL IS CERTAINLY OVER-WHELMING.
SOME SAY THAT...
...FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF OUR AWE-INSPIRING PLANET...
...HUMANITY IS LIKE A NASTY LITTLE PARASITE.
HAH!
I MIGHT NOT EVEN KNOW HOW TO SPELL "SCIENCE," BUT...


HUMANITY MANAGED...
...TO SURVIVE OFF THE RESOURCES OF THE EARTH...
...AND ACCUMULATE KNOWLEDGE OVER A FEW HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS.
THE WAY I SEE IT, THAT'S A LOT MORE AWE-INSPIRING.
WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE RIGHT, KOHAKU!
I BET THE PLANET'S HYPED FOR US TO USE ALL THESE SWEET ROCKS!
TIME TO BUILD...
...SUPER-ALLOY CITY!


Z=184: Fort Medusa
KLANG
KLANG
KRZT
KRZT KRZT


UM...
WHY DID WE CONSTRUCT...
...THIS CRAZY-FORTIFIED STRONGHOLD?


FOR THE FINAL BATTLE AGAINST STANLEY.
SAY WHAAAAT?!
ARE THE BAD GUYS GONNA CHASE US ALL THE WAY HERE?!
D-DID THEY FIGURE OUT OUR LOCATION?!
N-N-NOT THAT I'M SCARED. B-BUT STILL...
...M-M-MAYBE WE SHOULD G-GUARD IT A LITTLE BETTER?
HEH HEH HEH... I'M THINKING THAT DR. XENO...
...WAS UP TO NO GOOD WITH OUR RADIO SIGNAL...
KZZT KZZT
KZZT
...SINCE I NOTICED HIS CLAW WAS SLIGHTLY MAGNETIZED.
KCHK


YOU PEOPLE PLANNED TO LURE STANLEY HERE...
...SO I DON'T SEE THE HARM.
YOU SPED UP THE TIMETABLE—THAT'S THE HARM.
???
I'M AFRAID YOU LOST ME.
?
HA HA! OF COURSE! BECAUSE WE DESIRE THE SHIP, RIGHT?
OUR NEXT MOVE...
...INVOLVES CROSSING THE ATLANTIC AS WE TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD...
...SO WE DEFINITELY NEED A PROPER SEAFARING VESSEL AGAIN!
AND THE *PERSEUS* IS OUR BEST AND ONLY OPTION.
WE'RE OUT TO BEAT STANLEY...
...AND RECLAIM THE *PERSEUS.*
MEANWHILE, HE'S OUT TO MURDER US...
...AND RECLAIM BIG BOSS XENO!


BOTH SIDES...
...HAVE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE...
...AT THE FINISH LINE OF OUR BIG RACE!


TOK
TOK
HOW DO YOU SEE...
...THIS BATTLE WITH STANLEY PLAYING OUT?
THE BULLET WOUND HE PUT IN YOUR SHOULDER...
...STILL HASN'T HEALED.
NEITHER HAS MINE.
YES... AGAINST A SQUAD OF FULLY EQUIPPED AMERICAN MILITARY ELITES...
...OUR ODDS OF VICTORY IN STANDARD COMBAT ARE ALL BUT NONEXISTENT.
AND OUR ONLY OTHER FIGHTERS...
...ARE KOHAKU, UKYO, AND MAX.
OUR ONLY HOPE...
...LIES IN THESE THINGS!
THE MEDUSA MACHINE GUN!
FWOO
FWOO
FWOO
FWOO


WOBBL
WOBBL
WOBBL
THROWS LIKE THAT WON'T CUT IT AGAINST STANLEY'S GANG!
OUR PEOPLE WILL BE SNIPED LONG BEFORE THE ENEMY COMES WITHIN RANGE.
WOBBL
P
WK
<FIFTY METERS, ONE SECOND!>
OOOH!!
HOW D'YA LIKE MY TRAP?
I'VE GOT 'EM SET UP HERE, THERE, ALL AROUND!
TMP
TWNG


<FIFTY METERS, ONE SECOND!>
I'M PREDICTING PLENTY OF MISFIRES.
YOU'D BETTER PREPARE EXTRA TRAPS, TO BE SAFE...
YES, OUR STRATEGY WILL DEPEND ON QUANTITY.
HOW MANY OF THESE TRAPS CAN WE PREPARE?
TO REACTIVATE THE MEDUSA DEVICES...
...WE NEED FRESH DIAMONDS.
HERE WE COME, DIAMONDS!
FWSH
FWSH
SPLSHH
THE WATERWHEEL WILL HELP US POLISH THE DIAMONDS.
RIGHT. THIS WAY, THE BULK OF THE MACHINERY STAYS HIDDEN UNDERWATER.


IM EXPECTING KASEKI TO BUST OUTTA HIS DUDS ANY SECOND NOW!
BURST!
ABOUT THAT...
GLOOOM
I DUNNO HOW MUCH BUSTIN' I'LL DO, CUZ THESE LITTLE MEDUSA THINGS, WELL...
?
KRK
KREEK
KASHATTR
KAKRAK
KAKRUNCH
OHO HO! THE PIECES ARE TOO TINY!
I DON'T EVEN THINK IT'S POSSIBLE...
...TO OPEN THEM UP WITHOUT BREAKING THEM!
THE BAAAD NEWS GETS WORSE, SINCE WE GOTTA REPLACE THE TEENY DIAMONDS.
EVEN JOEL, THE PRO WATCH TECHNICIAN...
...IS FACING AN UPHILL BATTLE WITH THIS STUFF.
KRRK



WE'LL NEVER GET ENOUGH OF 'EM UP AND RUNNING FOR A MACHINE-GUN ATTACK.
IN THE TIME WE HAVE BEFORE THE ENEMY SHOWS UP...
...WHO KNOWS IF WE CAN EVEN MAKE ONE OR TWO?
HNNGH
<FIFTY METERS, THREE SECONDS!>
ONE...
PEW
TWO...
THREE !!
SO THIS IS WHEN WE WOULD SEE THE LIGHT AND HEAR THE *FWOOM* NOISE!
IF ONLY WE HAD A BRAND-NEW DIAMOND BATTERY, YEAH.
GREAT! EVEN ONE'S ENOUGH IF UKYO'S ARCHERY CAN SHOOT THAT THING CLOSE ENOUGH TO ZAP 'EM ALL!
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT RELIES ON KNOWING WHERE STANLEY AND HIS PEOPLE ARE SITUATED.
AND BY THE TIME THEY'RE CLOSE ENOUGH FOR THAT...
...WE'LL BE ON THE RECEIVING END OF THEIR BULLETS.
!!
THAT GIVES ME A BRIGHT IDEA!
SINCE THERE'S ONLY...
...ONE MEDUSA...


I CAN JUST...
...RUN IT OVER...
...AND TAKE THEM DOWN WITH ME!
<ONE HUNDRED METERS, ONE SECOND!>
ARE YOU SUGGESTING A PSEUDO SUICIDE MISSION, DEAR TAIJU?!
SURE, SINCE Y'ALL CAN JUST REVIVE ME ANYWAY!
A FEW BULLETS WON'T SLOW ME DOWN!
THEY'RE TEN BILLION PERCENT SURE TO SHOOT YOU BEFORE YOU GET CLOSE ENOUGH.
BULLETS? NO, A SINGLE HEADSHOT WOULD FINISH YOU OFF...
...
PSEUDO SUICIDE...


GOT A FLASH OF INSPIRATION.
A SUREFIRE PATH TO VICTORY.
WE ALL...
...GET PETRIFIED.
THE SECOND STANLEY'S GANG SHOWS UP...
<THREE THOUSAND METERS!>
<ONE SECOND!>


FWOOOOOM
ONE OF US JUST HAS TO KEEP HIDDEN REAL FAR AWAY.
THEN, WHEN IT'S ALL OVER...
...THEY COME BACK AND ONLY REVIVE OUR PEOPLE!
...
THAT'S...
...CRAZY ENOUGH TO WORK.
WITH THAT STRATEGY...
...WE CAN'T POSSIBLY LOSE!
HMPH! JUST ONE LITTLE PROBLEM TO SOLVE.
THE PLAN'S GONNA FALL TO PIECES IF THE DESIGNATED MEDUSA HOLDER...
...GETS SHOT BEFORE GIVING THE COMMAND.
WORST CASE, STANLEY MIGHT NAB THE DEVICE FOR HIMSELF.
THAT WOULD BE A PROBLEM.
BUT NOT ONE...
...THAT SCIENCE CAN'T SOLVE!


KLANG
KLANG
Fort Medusa established!!



SPEAKER
SHOCK CANNON
UP IN OUR WATCH-TOWER...
...WE'VE GOT OUR WORKING MEDUSA AND A SPEAKER.
MEDUSA
THE SPEAKER'S CONNECTED TO MICS...
...SPREAD ALL OVER THE ENTIRE FORT.
THE INSTANT WE'RE UNDER ATTACK...
<THREE THOUSAND METERS, ONE SECOND!>
...SOMEONE'S JUST GOTTA SHOUT INTO ONE OF THOSE MICS!
HAH! THE NASTY CALAMITY THAT ALMOST WIPED OUT HUMANITY...
E=mc²
...IS NOW...
...OUR OWN PERSONAL GUARDIAN DEITY!!


BWA CHOO
BWA-CHOO!

Z=185: Lovely Cleavage Plane




Fort Medusa
WHEN STANLEY'S GANG ATTACKS...
PETRI-TOWER, SWITCH ON!!
<3,000 METERS, ONE SECOND!>
EVERYONE GETS PETRIFIED! ENEMIES AND ALLIES ALIKE!
EXCEPT FOR ONE OF US, HIDING FAR AWAY...
...WHO CAN RETURN WHEN IT'S ALL OVER TO REVIVE US!
HA HA! NO TIME TO LOSE, FOLKS.
WE'VE GOTTA FINISH THE FORTIFICATIONS BEFORE STANLEY AND HIS PEOPLE CRASH THE PARTY! AM I WRONG?!
THE REAL ISSUE IS THE THING SMACK-DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FORT.
THE PETRI-TOWER.
E=mc


IF WE CAN REACTIVATE ONE OF THE MEDUSA DEVICES...
...THEN WE'VE GOT THIS BATTLE WON!
HUUUH ?!
YOU MANAGED TO POP ONE OPEN NICE AND CLEAN!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO MY GUTS.
BUT I'VE ALSO LEFT A MOUN-TAIN OF FAILURES.
WHY NOT ATTEMPT WHAT DEAR JOEL MANAGED TO DO?
WHEN HE REMOVED AND REINSERTED THE DIAMOND...
...IT BREATHED A BIT OF LIFE BACK INTO THE DEVICE, IF ONLY FOR A SECOND!
TRIED IT. DIDN'T WORK.
NO WONDER, SINCE THESE BABIES ARE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD.
RIGHT... THE MEDUSA THAT JOEL'S WORKING ON...
...IS THE ONLY NEW-ISH ONE.



SO WE GOTTA DIG DEEP DOWN INTO OUR GUTS...
...AND CRAFT ONE FOR OURSELVES.
A NEW DIAMOND BATTERY...
...THAT'S THE PERFECT SHAPE AND SIZE!
KRRRRRZ
KRRRZ


<ONE METER, ONE SECOND...>
NO DICE.
IT AIN'T WORKING.
AND YOU'RE NOT HELPING!
HEY, IT'S OKAY...
FEH...
IT'S A PERFECT MATCH IN SHAPE AND SIZE.
IF MY SKILLS CAN'T PULL IT OFF, THEN NO ONE IN THE WORLD CAN DO IT.
COULD BE AN ORDINARY DIAMOND SOMEHOW ISN'T THE ANSWER...
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME KEY DIFFERENCE, BUT WHAT...?
HAVEN'T HEARD A PEEP FROM JOEL.
AND ALL THIS GRINDING AWAY...
...MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M RUNNING AROUND IN CIRCLES.
STILL, I CAN'T QUIT. NOT IF MY GUTS AND I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT.
HEH HEH HEH... RUNNING AROUND IN CIRCLES? NOT EVEN ONE MILLIMETER.
THINK ABOUT IT. JOEL, THE PRO...
...AND YOU—WITH A MOUNTAIN OF SAMPLES...
...CAN'T SEEM TO PULL IT OFF.


THAT TELLS US THAT SOMETHING'S WRONG.
AND THAT TIDBIT OF KNOWLEDGE IS WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD.
OHO HO! THIS RARE PEP TALK FROM SENKU'S WORKING WONDERS.
PEP TALK?
IN TEN BILLION YEARS, I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D HEAR ENCOURAGEMENT FROM HIM.
ARE YOU IMPLYING HE'S SOME KIND OF MONSTER?!
Well, actually, I see your point...
HMPH! HE'S JUST STATING THE BLUNT TRUTH AT THE CORE OF TRIAL AND ERROR.
A STRING OF ERRORS ISN'T A DEAD END—IT'S PROGRESS!
FOR SURE!
ERRORS, HUH?
CUZ ONE TINY ERROR CAN RUIN THE DIAMOND, RIGHT?
NAW, I DON'T THINK THAT'S IT. THESE DIAMOND BATTERIES YOU'RE MAKING...
...ARE SOLID AS HECK!
I'D SAY THEY'RE EVEN TOUGHER THAN THE ONES WE FOUND IN THE MEDUSAS.
HRMPH!
WHAM
WHAM
I STILL GOT IT, DON'T I?
GROUND TO PERFECTION, SO THEY WON'T CRACK.


EVEN THE CLEAN ONES HAVE CRACKS IN THEM!
I SEE CRACKS. LIKELY ALONG THE CLEAVAGE PLANES.
*PLANES PRONE TO CRACKING
WAIT...
AN ARTISAN LIKE ME...
...WOULD NEVER WANNA MAKE A GEM THAT COULD CRACK.
SO THEN WHY...
KLAT
THESE'RE THE DIAMONDS FROM THE MEDUSAS.
TNK
NOW, IF I GIVE 'EM A WHACK, JUST SO...
KRAK
TNK TNK TNK TNK TNK


!!!
EVERY SINGLE DIAMOND BATTERY...
WHY'D THEY CRACK RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE SO CLEANLY?!
RUNNING THROUGH THE LINES THAT INTERSECT AT THE TIP...
...ARE CLEAVAGE PLANES...
...WHERE THE CRYSTAL BOND IS WEAKEST.
HEH HEH HEH... SO THOSE LINES MIGHT BE CHANNELING SOMETHING.
IT'S GOT ME FIRED UP!
THE THOUGHT OF A WICKED CRAFTING CHALLENGE!
OH, YEAH. NOW I'M SEEIN'...
...HOW THE STRUCTURE'S S'POSED TO BE!
GREAT! AND NOW...
...IT'S JUST A BATTLE AGAINST TIME!
OHO HO! SURE WISH WE COULD GIVE JOEL THIS HINT. ♫
THINGS'D RUN SMOOTHER IF WE COULD FILL EACH OTHER IN ABOUT OUR DISCOVERIES, NO?
LIKE I SAID, WE CAN'T SEND OUT RADIO WAVES.
WE'D BETTER NOT REVEAL OUR POSITION TO STANLEY'S GANG...
...UNTIL WE'RE FULLY PREPARED TO DO BATTLE.


TREE HOUSE
NOW, SOMEONE'S GOTTA HIDE REAL FAR FROM THE FORT.
AND THIS KEY GUERILLA OPERATIVE...
...WHO'S GONNA REVIVE US ALL IN THE END IS...
...SUIKA!!
HIDING? SUIKA IS REALLY GOOD AT THAT!
PWOP
NOT TO MENTION...
...IT'LL BE SAFER FOR YOU FAR AWAY FROM THE BATTLE.
HMPH! AND WORRY NOT, SINCE FRANCOIS WILL ASSIST!
WITH MY SUPPORT, MASTER SUIKA WILL WANT FOR NOTHING.
SO SHOULD I HIDE NEAR THE BIG RIVER?
INDEED. THEY WILL MAKE REGULAR FOOD DELIVERIES, AND ONE CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT FRESH WATER.
FURTHER-MORE...
...WE ANTICIPATE THAT MASTER STANLEY AND HIS COMPATRIOTS WILL REACH OUR LOCATION BY TRAVELING UPRIVER.
STAKING OUT THE RIVER MAY ALLOW YOU TO DETECT THE ENEMY BEFORE THEY DETECT US.
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, MASTER SUIKA?
I THINK...
...I SEE THEM!


SPLSH
SPLSH
SPLSH
SPLSH
SPLSH


TMP TMP TMP TMP
JUST GOTTA LOOK FOR PLUMES OF SMOKE, YEAH?
YEP. I'M SURE THE JUNIOR SCIENCE BRIGADE'S GOAL WAS HERE—ARAXÁ.
AND IF THEY'RE MINING MINERALS ...
...THAT'S GONNA MEAN FIRE AND SMOKE.
KEEP UP THE PACE, PRISONER!
EEK!!
GINRO'S WITH THEM.
MATSU-KAZE TOO.
WELL DONE, MASTER SUIKA!


WE GOTTA WARN THE BASE...
...THAT STANLEY'S GANG IS COMING!
NO. WIRELESS COMMUNICATION IS OUR LAST RESORT...
...BECAUSE EMPLOYING IT WILL ALLOW THEM TO DISCOVER OUR LOCATION.
AS INSTRUMENTAL FIGURES TO THIS STRATEGY'S SUCCESS, WE CANNOT RISK OUR OWN SAFETY LIKE THAT.
SKTTR
THE HECK IS THAT SMELL?!
ARE THERE ARMY ANTS AROUND?!
YIKES!
I'D BETTER MAKE MYSELF SCARCE!!
WE SHALL HAVE TO RETURN ON FOOT, AND—
RSTL
ACK!!



OH NO! L-LOOK!
THAT ENEMY LADY MUST'VE BEEN BITTEN BY SOMETHING!
IF VENOM'S CAUSING A FIT OF SPASMS...
...THIS LITTLE ITEM IS YOUR LAST RESORT FOR FIRST AID.
REMEMBER WHEN WE MADE DYNAMITE? THIS SWAB IS SOAKED IN THAT SAME NITROGLYCERIN.
RUBBING THE SWAB ONTO THE SKIN WILL EXPAND THE CORONARY ARTERY...
...AND KICKSTART THE HEART BACK TO LIFE, LIKE BAM!
BUT...
HM... NO.
WE ARE CENTRAL TO THIS OPERA-TION.
WE MUSTN'T BE CAUGHT...
...


MASTER SUIKA!!
BADUM
BADUM


...
WHAT YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT STANLEY...
...IS THAT, IN ORDER TO RESCUE HIS GENERAL...
...HE WILL NOT HESITATE TO SLAUGHTER EVERYONE.
ETHICS AND MORALS DO NOT COME INTO PLAY.
BECAUSE THIS IS SIMPLY HIS JOB AS A SOLDIER.
YEAH.
I'M AWARE OF THAT.
ALL THOSE LOVELY PLATITUDES YOU SPOUT...
...REVEAL YOUR INHERENT WEAKNESS.


JUST LIKE...
...FRAGILE CLEAVAGE PLANES!
THANK YOU...
<FREEZE!!>


MECHA SENKU
Q&A
SEARCH
Question Corner
If the South America team had master thrower Kirisame with them, could they win the battle by having her toss petrification devices?
S.Y. from Tokyo
SEARCH
Modern warfare is all about ranged attacks, so she might have contributed to the battle in a big way.
1st Stanley's Gun
2nd Elite Squad's Guns
3rd Ukyo's Bow
Kirisame's Throwing
Normal Throwing
Hyoga's Pipe-Spear
Kohaku's Katana
Ginro's "Fight? No, Flight!"
On that note, we have compared the relative range of these fighters!


Z=186: To Each Their Own Blade


TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
STANLEY'S GUYS...
...SPOTTED ME!
<FREEZE!>
FU-REE-ZU?! WHAT'S THAT MEAN?!
MY APOLOGIES, BUT I ONLY HAVE A VAGUE RECOLLEC-TION.
I BELIEVE "FREEZE" IS WHEN WATER TURNS TO ICE!
DUNNO WHAT THAT MEANS, BUT...
...SUIKA CAN'T...
...AFFORD TO GET CAUGHT!


WHY AIN'T THAT LITTLE IDIOT FREEZING?!
SHE'S GONNA BOLT BACK TO THEIR BASE...
...AND TELL 'EM WHICH WAY WE'RE COMING FROM!
WHAT A GRAVE STATE OF AFFAIRS... MASTERS SUIKA, GINRO, AND MATSUKAZE LACK 21ST-CENTURY KNOWLEDGE...
...AND HAVEN'T AN INKLING THAT "FREEZE" IS A WARNING TO NOT MOVE!
!!
FWISH!!



TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
FSH FSH FSH
SHP SHP SHP SHP SHP
!
THE ONLY WEAPON ON HAND...
...IS THIS SMALL PARING KNIFE.
I DON'T POSSESS ANY COMBAT SKILLS.
THERE'S LITTLE SENSE DEPLOYING THE KNIFE UNLESS IT'S QUITE LITERALLY DO OR DIE.
MASTER SUIKA AND I WOULD ONLY BE GUNNED DOWN.
IN WHICH CASE...


SHOOT HER!!
THE MATTER IS IN YOUR HANDS...
MASTER MATSUKAZE! MASTER GINRO!
THE FIRST TO REACT...
...TO THE KNIFE DANCING THROUGH THE AIR WAS...
...MATSU-KAZE.
THIS WAS NO MERE STROKE OF LUCK.
IN HIS WAR AGAINST THE PETRI-FICATION DEVICES...
...MATSUKAZE HAD RISKED HIS LIFE TRAINING TO INSTINCTIVELY REACT TO PROJECTILES.


CHP
I'VE CAUGHT IT, BUT WITH MY HANDS TIED UP...
...I HAVE NO MEANS BY WHICH TO SEVER MY OWN BINDINGS.
IN WHICH CASE...
FWP
SLSH


I LEAVE THIS TO YOU...
...LORD GINRO!!
THE KID'S ROPES—
PIN HIM DOWN!!
...
YOU DUMMY, MATSUKAZE! I CAN'T FIGHT BACK AGAINST GUNS!
BUT WAIT. AT THIS DISTANCE...
...IF IT MEANS GIVING SUIKA A SECOND TO GET AWAY...
...MAYBE I CAN DO IT?
NO! NO! NO! THEY'LL SHOOT ME DEAD IF I RESIST!
WHY ME? WHY NOW? WHY DO I HAVE TO DIE FOR THIS, MATSUKAZE?!
YOU SHOULDA LEFT ME TIED UP!
YEAH, UH, YOU GOT THE WRONG GUY. THAT'S JUST OUR RESIDENT SLEAZEBAG.
MY LORD WAS STRONG OF HEART TO THE VERY END.
SINCE I'M SORTA-KINDA-BASICALLY THE REINCARNATION OF YOUR OLD LORD, WON'TCHA COME ALONG...
...AND BE MY LOYAL LACKEY?
SKWEEZ



I MEAN, DUH, HOW'D I FORGET?
I STARTED OUT AS A VILLAGE GUARD!
AND I'M...
...ACTUALLY KINDA STRONG!
After all that training!
NO WAY! NUH-UH!
I CAN'T ...
...LET SUIKA DIEEEE!
RAHHHHH!


BLAM
BLAMM
BLAMM
BLAM
EEEK! OW-OW-OWWW!



AS STRONG AND SKILLED AS MR. STANLEY IS...
...HE PAUSED FOR A BEAT...
...INSTEAD OF SHOOTING MASTER GINRO INSTANTLY. BUT WHY?
HE COULD'VE EASILY SHOT MASTER GINRO BEFORE THAT LITTLE SCUFFLE.
I CAN ONLY REACH A SINGLE CONCLUSION.
IT'S NOT THAT HE COULDN'T SHOOT.
BUT RATHER, UNTIL THE PRISONER OF WAR ENGAGED IN COMBAT...
...HE CHOSE NOT TO SHOOT.
IN FACT, I OBSERVED THAT MASTERS GINRO AND MATSUKAZE...
...WERE ONLY BOUND, BUT NOT HARMED IN ANY WAY.
THEY'RE PRISONERS OF WAR...
...WHO ARE BEING TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THOSE RULES, MORE OR LESS.
THESE PEOPLE AREN'T COLD-BLOODED MURDERERS.
THEY'RE SOLDIERS.
WHICH MEANS...


WE'RE CIVILIANS!


MASTER SUIKA, HERE...
...IS A CIVILIAN DOCTOR.
AND SHE FULFILLED HER OBLIGATION AS A DOCTOR...
...BY TREATING A PASSERBY SUFFERING FROM A SPIDER BITE.
...
FOR SAFETY'S SAKE...
...SHE'S BEEN LIVING OUT HERE, AWAY FROM MASTER SENKU AND THE OTHERS.
IF YOU DOUBT ME, YOU'RE WELCOME TO INSPECT HER BELONGINGS.
NONE OF THAT...
...WAS A LIE, EXACTLY...
WE ARE UNAFFILIATED WITH THE COMBAT UNIT.
WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF ATTACKING AND WILL DO AS YOU SAY.
KNOWING THAT, WILL YOU STILL EXECUTE US?
BAM!


NOPE.
WON'T SHOOT YA.
IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING'S TRUE.


SHP
GOTCHA !!
!!
THIS BIG MESS...
...IS ALL SUIKA'S FAULT.
WE COULDN'T EVEN TELL EVERYONE...
...THAT STANLEY'S ON HIS WAY...
NOT NECESSARILY, MASTER SUIKA.
IN FACT, I SAY WE'VE RENDERED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE.
WHAT'S UP, LEONARD?
JUST BEFORE...
...WE NABBED THEM...
...THE ONE CALLED FRANCOIS SENT A TRANSMISSION.


YES.
"WE'VE SPLIT INTO TWO TEAMS."
THAT'S THE MESSAGE I SENT TO THE U.S. BASE, JUST AS A PRECAUTION.
IF THAT TROUBLES YOU, YOU MAY VERIFY THE MORSE CODE CONTENT FOR YOURSELVES.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO SUIKA AND FRANCOIS?!
THEY...
...HAD A RUN-IN WITH STANLEY'S GANG.
?!!!


HMPH. FRANCOIS WILLINGLY GAVE AWAY THEIR POSITION TO THE ENEMY...
...JUST TO SEND A MESSAGE?
HEH HEH HEH... YOU GOT IT BACKWARD. WHAT FRANCOIS DID...
...GAVE US THE ENEMY'S POSITION.
THAT'S AN EASY-PEASY PUZZLE!
CONSIDER THE BEARING, FACTOR IN HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE THOSE TWO SET OUT AND...
YEP! WE'VE FOUND THEM FIRST!


NOW...
...WE KNOW...
...THE ENEMY'S EXACT LOCATION!!
BAM


MECHA SENKU Q&A
SEARCH
Question Corner
Given Kaseki's bulging muscles, he seems like he'd be a powerful fighter. Why doesn't he fight at all?
K.O. from Nagasaki Prefecture
SEARCH
Kaseki's muscles are powered by excitement over crafting!
In a real battle? I'd prolly shrink back down real quick.
Dr.STONE

Z=187: CYBER GUERILLA





Z=187: CYBER GUERILLA
ZOOOOOOSH
I KNEW IT!
TOO LATE!
HMPH. IT'S RISKY...
...BUT MIGHT BE THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION. AM I WRONG?
YEP. OUR PATH TO VICTORY IS SIMPLE.
ACTIVATE A PETRIFICATION DEVICE BEFORE THE ENEMY SHOWS UP.
SO, A LITTLE PREEMPTIVE GUERILLA WARFARE...
...IS THE ONLY WAY TO SLOW DOWN STANLEY'S GANG AND BUY US TIME!


IT'S S-SCARY HOW GOOD...
...STANLEY'S PEOPLE ARE.
OUR FOOT-PRINTS...
...AREN'T EVEN THAT DEEP!
AND IF THEY FOLLOW THE TRAIL...
...OUR TRACKS WILL LEAD THEM...
...RIGHT BACK TO EVERYONE ELSE!
TMP
TMP
OF COURSE, SINCE I KNOW THE GENERAL AREA...
...AND ROUTE THE ENEMY'S TAKING...
...MY EYESIGHT MAKES IT...
...A CINCH TO FIND THEM.



BUT NOW...
TMP
TMP
THE SOLDIER IN FRONT...
...IS CHECKING FOR WIRE TRAPS.
JUST BEHIND HIM...
...THEIR LEADER IS KEEPING WATCH IN FRONT AND OVERHEAD.
THEIR COMMS MAN IS GUARDING THEIR FLANKS...
...AND ANOTHER IS MONITORING THE REAR.
NOT A SINGLE MEMBER IS OUT OF PLACE.
AND THEY KEEP A STRICT DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM WHILE ON THE MOVE.
THEY DON'T HAVE...
...A SINGLE OPENING TO EXPLOIT!


YES, WE'RE FACING COMBAT PROFESSIONALS...
...FROM THE 21ST CENTURY.
!!!
TOMP
TSUKASA!
WHEN YOU RAN OFF HALF-COCKED, I THOUGHT YOUR BRAIN HAD TURNED TO MUSH.
BUT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE GAUGING THE ENEMY'S CAPABILITIES AND NOT DIVING INTO BATTLE...
...TELLS ME YOU'RE KEEPING YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU.
TOMP
HYOGA!!
THEIR TRAINING HAS PREPARED THEM FOR ANY COMBAT SCENARIO.
IN A HEAD-ON BATTLE, WE'D HAVE NO HOPE OF VICTORY.
BUT WE'VE COME PREPARED TOO.
FWP
TUG
PWK
CHROME DESIGNED THIS TRAP...
A REMOTE-CONTROLLED RECORD PLAYER.
PWK
KZZT
KZZT
OH!
I SEE!



15V
KZZT
BANG
BANG!
THAT SOUNDS PRETTY WEAK FOR A GUNSHOT.
HOW, THOUGH? WE RECORDED THE REAL THING.
SOMETIMES THE GENUINE ARTICLE ISN'T THE BEST OPTION WHEN IT COMES TO SOUND.
FOR INSTANCE, WHEN MAKING SOUND EFFECTS FOR MOVIES...
...INSTEAD OF USING REAL WAVES AT SEA...
...THEY MIGHT RECORD SAND SWISHING AROUND IN A PAN.
SHF SHF
RIGHT, SO HOW ABOUT SMACKING THIS PLASTIC CONTAINER?
WHAP WHAP
!!
THAT JUST MIGHT WORK!


SOUNDS LIKE THE REAL DEAL!!
ANTASTIC-FAY! OUR SONARMAN UKYO MAKES FOR A STELLAR SOUND DIRECTOR! ♪
BANG
BANG
WE'LL RECORD THE SOUND THE PLASTIC MAKES...
...THEN SLOW DOWN THE PLAYBACK SPEED AND...
...WE LAYER THE SOUNDS ON TOP OF EACH OTHER!
FOR THE FINAL TOUCH...
BABANG BANG BANG
EEEK! WHO'S SHOOTING AT US?!
WE'RE YOUR ALLIES HERE, REMEMBER?!
AMBUSH !!


BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
BA BANG
!!
WHILE THOSE AT THE FRONT ARE TAKING COVER...
...THAT OTHER UNIT IS ZIPPING TO THE SIDE.
BANG
DID THEY SPOT US?!
TOMP TOMP
NO.


THEY'RE PROS, SO THEY'LL PROBABLY DEDUCE THAT OUR GUNFIRE IS FAKE.
BUT THEY'RE NOT SO NAIVE AS TO BELIEVE THAT WE POSE THEM NO THREAT AT ALL.
SO THEY'VE RESPONDED TO THIS AMBUSH JUST AS COMBAT THEORY DICTATES.
THESE SOLDIERS STAY BEHIND AND PRETEND TO FIGHT BACK, DRAWING OUR ATTENTION.
WHILE THESE OTHER ONES TAKE A DETOUR TO ATTACK THE ENEMY.
THEN THIS IS OUR CHANCE...
...TO RESCUE SUIKA AND THE OTHERS!
THAT WOULD STILL BE A CHALLENGE SINCE STANLEY IS NEARBY.
A CHAOTIC BATTLE COULD RESULT IN DEAD HOSTAGES.
TCH...
MORE IMPORTANTLY...
...WE NEED TO DESTROY THE ENEMY'S TRANSCEIVER.


THAT MAY BE POSSIBLE IF A BATTLE BREAKS OUT.
OUR GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY, IF YOU WILL.
RIGHT... EVEN I'VE LEARNED THAT MUCH.
COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY TO MODERN WARFARE!
MORE SPECIFICALLY...
...IF WE...
...CUT OFF THEIR COMMUNICATION...
...WHILE MAINTAINING OUR OWN, THEN WE'VE WON THIS WAR.
??!!
HOW'S THAT?!
PLEASE THINK ABOUT IT FOR A MOMENT.
WHY NOT JUST HOLD A BLADE TO XENO'S THROAT...
...AND DEMAND THAT STANLEY SURRENDER?
WHY EXACTLY HAVEN'T WE CONSIDERED PLAYING THAT OBVIOUS CARD?



BECAUSE BACK AT THEIR BASE...
...NIKKI AND SEVERAL DOZEN OF OUR ALLIES ARE THEIR HOSTAGES.
THE HOSTAGES ON BOTH SIDES HAVE CREATED A STALEMATE.
RIGHT, SO IF WE DO ANYTHING TO HURT XENO...
...THEY WOULDN'T THINK TWICE ABOUT CONTACTING THEIR PEOPLE IN CORN CITY AND TELLING THEM TO RETALIATE AGAINST...
EXACTLY. ONCE THEY'VE LOST THEIR LINE OF COMMUNI-CATION...
...THE HOSTAGES ON THEIR SIDE ARE EFFECTIVELY USELESS.
THEN, WE CAN TAKE OUR SWEET TIME...
...SLICING OFF XENO'S FINGERS, TOES, AND APPENDAGES, ONE AT A TIME...
...UNTIL STANLEY'S TEAM AGREES TO SURRENDER.
WAIT, THAT STILL WOULDN'T WORK!
SINCE THEY'D HAVE...
...SUIKA AND THE OTHER THREE AS HOSTAGES!!
ALL OF OUR LIVES HANG IN THE BALANCE.

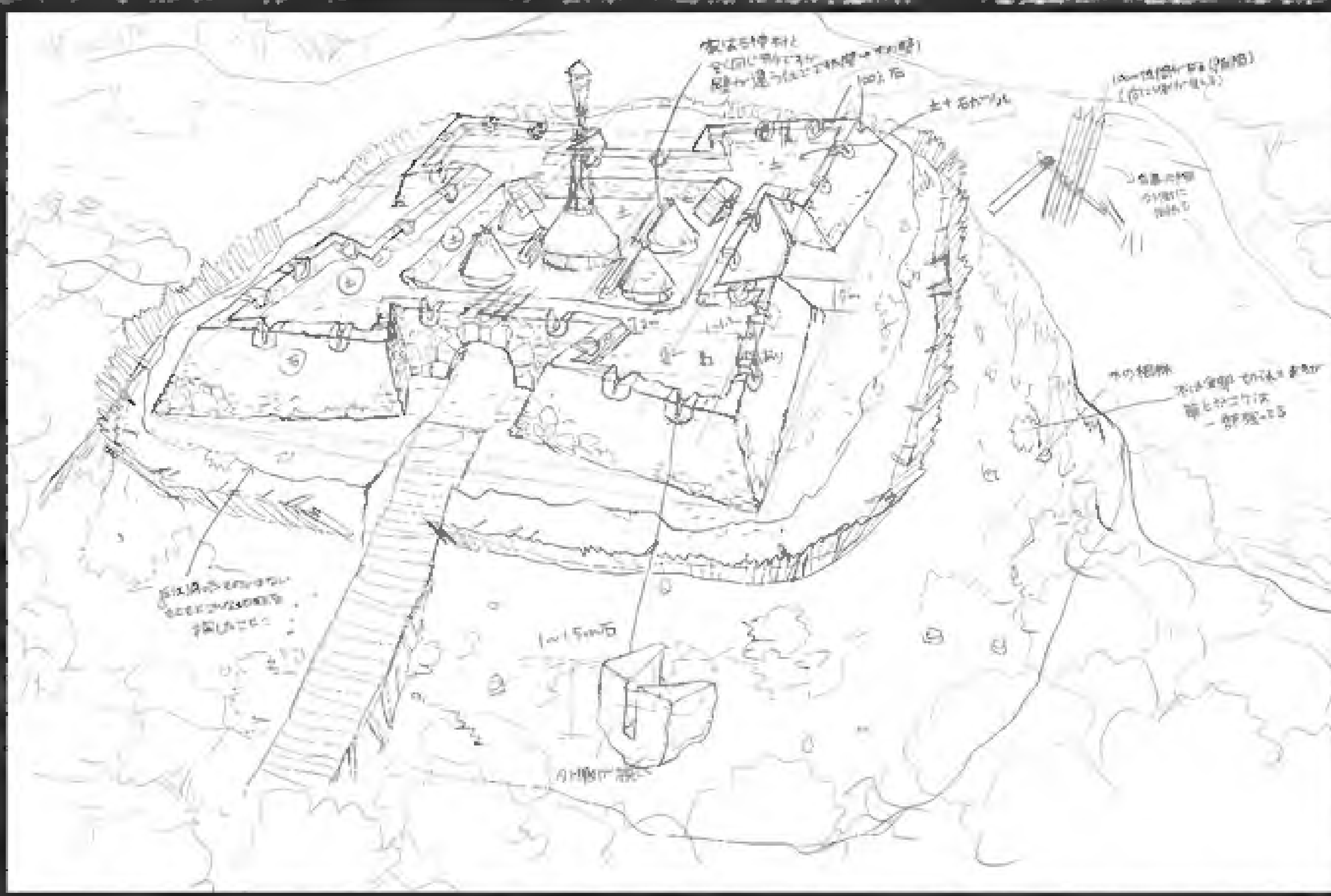

IF FORSAKING FOUR COULD BRING ABOUT VICTORY...
...THEN IT'S AN OPTION THAT MUST BE CONSIDERED.
HAH! LIKE WE'D EVER GO ALONG WITH THAT PLAN!!
HM... WHETHER OR NOT WE GO WITH THAT OPTION...
...IT STILL REMAINS ON THE TABLE.
THINK OF IT FROM STANLEY'S PERSPECTIVE.
IF HIS TRANSCEIVER IS DESTROYED...
...HIS TEAM WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DROP EVERYTHING TO REPAIR IT.
WE'D BE CAUSING A SIGNIFICANT DELAY.
YEAH.
IF THAT'S OUR GOAL HERE...
...THEN I'M ON BOARD!
RATATATTAT
RATATATTAT
SHUP
WHAT'S WRONG, MAYA?
NOT SURE.
MY INSTINCTS AS THE ALL-AMERICAN WOMEN'S-DIVISION MMA CHAMP ARE TELLING ME SOMETHING.


FOUND...
...YOU!


KRK KRK
WELL. OUR DEATHS ARE NOW ASSURED. YET...
I'M NOT ONE TO BE SHOT DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT.
RIGHT.
...WE JUST HAVE TO DESTROY THEIR TRANSCEIVER.
BEFORE WE DIE...


HAH! I NEVER IMAGINED ...
...THE THREE OF US WOULD MARCH INTO BATTLE TOGETHER!


RMMMMMB





BOICHI

Some simple breakdowns of designs in this volume:

1. The Ropeway
I designed the ropeway so that it was A) realistic, given the resources that Senku and pals actually possess, and B) an absolute blast to ride. It also had to be clear that Senku was prioritizing his friends' safety, which is the case with all his inventions. These are essential aspects of everything Senku creates.

2. Medusa Wave-Tactics Site
I deliberately stopped to think about how a sudden deluge of hyper-tech devices from the sky would ultimately pile up on the ground, assuming they were bumping into each other a little on the way down. Furthermore, because I'm a fan of Central and South American civilizations, I was sure to include an homage to those cultures via the shape of the pile. Finally, because the Medusa devices put out such a vast amount of energy, I showed how the surrounding plants and inorganic matter were transformed by the incident.

3. Senku's Masada
Not your typical fortress, but rather one designed to counter enemies armed with guns and gunpowder. I was also influenced by Roman military camps found in Germany. You'll notice elements that evoke the feel of Ishigami village, since some of the villagers are part of this group. Wherever they go, people bring pieces of themselves.

RIICHIRO INAGAKI

I paid a visit to Genki Ichioka Sensei's GENKI LABO!

Why, you ask? To try crafting a certain "stone" that appears in volume 21. It took lots of trial and error, with plenty of failures, but in the end, I wound up with a tiny fragment! A fragment of what exactly? Read this book to find out.

If you happen to have the right lab equipment at your school, go ahead and give it a try!

Boichi is a Korean-born artist currently living and working in Japan. His previous works include *Sun-Ken Rock* and *Terra Formars Asimov*.

Riichiro Inagaki is a Japanese manga writer from Tokyo. He is the writer for the sports manga series *Eyeshield 21*, which was serialized in *Weekly Shonen Jump*.

Dr. STONE

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SHONEN JUMP Edition

Story **RIICHIRO INAGAKI**
Art **BOICHI**

Science Consultant/**KURARE** with Yakuri Classroom of Doom: Aruma Zirou, Cyrano, POKA
Experiment Consultants/
GENKI ICHIOKA (Science Artist)
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- Dartnell, Lewis, *The Knowledge: How to Rebuild Civilization in the Aftermath of a Cataclysm* Translated by Erika Togo, Kawade Shobo Shinsha, 2015
- Diamond, Jared, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* Translated by Akira Kurahone, Soshisha Publishing Co., 2012
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- Weisman, Alan, *The World Without Us*, Translated by Shinobu Onizawa, Hayakawa Publishing, 2009

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